

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
WEDNESDAY EVE LENTEN SERVICE APRIL 3, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:00 P.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "INVOCATION" MARTIN
 "CONSECRATION" RAND

SILENT MEDITATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 461 "SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD
LEAD US"

*INVOCATION - CHORAL AMEN

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 26: 36-46

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYERS AND CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "COMPLINE" O'DONNELL

HYMN No. 476 "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

SERMON: "HIS ACCEPTANCE"

SERMON PRAYER

*HYMN No. 470 "SAVIOUR, THY DYING LOVE"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL" SHEPPHERD

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
THE COUNCIL WILL MEET FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED ON PALM SUNDAY.

RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL BE FOLLOWING THE
MAUNDY EVENING HOLY COMMUNION - IN THE UNDERCROFT.

RICHARD ANDREWS - 371

Jesus's Acceptance

Text: Matthew 26; 42

"YOUR WILL BE DONE" WAS WHAT JESUS SAID

The acceptance of what was to befall Him, is what separates Jesus from mere humans. We can read in the paper on almost any given day of cases where someone who has been convicted of a crime is appealing for a new trial. Even people who have been caught in the perpetration of a crime, or caught as we usually say, red handed, plead not guilty to the charge. The human reaction to anything that threatens our life, our existence, or our accustomed way of living is to fight it with all the forces at our disposal. This is in direct contrast to the reaction of Jesus.

We are told in our Scripture that Jesus went to the garden called Gethsemane. There were no gardens of any size in Jerusalem, because it was a city built on a hill and every inch that could be used for building purposes was used. The wealthy citizens had their private gardens on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. The word Gethsemane means, an olive vat or an olive press. There isn't much doubt that this was indeed a garden with olive trees in it. To be able to go to a garden such as this would require that the owner would have to give permission to do so. Remember ~~that~~ this was a private garden and not for the use of the public. This would have meant that Jesus was a friend of the owner. It is truly an amazing thing that the friends of Jesus are nameless in the Gospels. The only one who is named is Joseph of Arimathea. But there was the man who gave Jesus the donkey on which He rode on Palm Sunday. Then there was the man who loaned Him the upper room to eat the Last Supper. And finally the man who loaned Him the use of the garden.

There are certain things that we can see when we ponder the praying in the garden by Jesus. We first witness the agony of Jesus. He was very sure at this time that His death was imminent. The burden of knowing this must have hung like a weight around His neck. No one wants to die at the tender age of 33. Here is where the struggle for Jesus really began in earnest. He

had to submit His will to that of God's will, or else turn His back on God's will and let God's plan be frustrated. Here we see the lesson that all of us learn at one time or another in our lives. And that is the lesson of learning how to accept what we cannot understand. Jesus had to learn this lesson too. All He knew was that the will of God was calling Him to go on. He knew that death awaited Him in the near future, and He knew that as He stood in that garden ~~that~~ He had to make a choice between doing the will of God, or refusing to do the will of God. The pressure on Him must have ^{been} tremendous at this moment. The temptation to run, to get away from it would almost be overpowering. A Christian Theologian of Africa named Tertullian who lived around 150 years after the life of Jesus, tells of a saying that is attributed to Jesus, but is not found in any of the Gospels yet has been handed down to this day. Quote "No one who has not been tempted can enter the kingdom of Heaven." This is to say that each man has his own private Gethsemane. Each man comes to the place where he either must accept or refuse what to him is the will of God. And this is where each man has to learn to say, "^{your} ~~thy~~ will be done."

IN MATTHEW & MARK

Then here we see the loneliness of Jesus. He took His three chosen disciples with Him. But they were so exhausted that they slept and Jesus may as well have been alone for all the comfort they were to Him. But even had they remained awake and alert, the battle had to be fought by Jesus alone. No one but Him could reach the decision that must be reached. No one but He was able to decide which way to go. Each man at some time in his life knows the loneliness of facing decisions that must be made, and can only be made by him. But we have the comfort of knowing that Jesus went through this and this should give us the strength we need to go on.

Then we see the trust of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark tells this story very much like Matthew, and well it should because Matthew used Mark's Gospel as his reference book. But there is one little difference between Matthew and Mark and that is the word Abba, is placed at the beginning of Jesus's prayer. He prayed Abba Father. There is a certain loveliness to this word that

is unknown to most people. Thesword Abba was used by young children as an endearing term to their fathers. sort of like daddy, only with a more loving meaning about it. Jesus prayed to God as a child, in complete trust, "Not as I WANT, BUT WHAT YOU WANT" ^{STAYS} ^{BUT NOT} ~~"Not as I would have it, but as you will have it."~~ This would take complete trust and love in God for Him to do this. But do it He did and His trust and love endured with Him until His death on that cross.

The example that Jesus set for us is indeed a difficult one
to follow. There are different ways in which the acceptance of what life brings
is handled by different people. Some people very graciously accept what life
has to offer and grin and bear it. Others complain their way through life ac-
cepting what comes to them grudgingly. The thing that determines how well we
can accept the problems of life is how well do we accept disappointments?
Suppose for instance we had planned a trip somewhere and because of illness we
had to call it off. Would we curse and swear and bemoan the fact that life
^{OR WOULD WE SAY THAT COOKIE CRUMBED}
was unfair and we were being pushed around etc. There is a bit of philo-sophy
mother has used for years ~~and I have sort of adopted it as my own also.~~
This is the way of accepting disappointments with the consolation that what
we wanted or desired was ^{IT WAS NOT} not to be. That God did not mean ~~T~~for us to have it
in the first place. ~~MOTHERS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO THIS FOR THEIR CHILDREN~~
~~XXX~~
~~XXX~~
^{IT WORKS} This philosophy has worked very well, in ^{FOR ME & FAMILY}
fact ^{WE} to the extent that ^{OUR} generally find out later that ~~my~~ wants or desires
^{OUR}would not be in the best interest ^{PEOPLE}. of my self or my family. How we accept what
life brings our way, very often is a determining factor of what kind of person
we are. Here is where many people come into conflict with society as well as
the law. Because of the fact that some of these people are living in conditions
which are below that of others ^{FEEL THEY} they must rebel against it. We have seen this
^{IN OUR COUNTRY FOR PAST FEW YEARS}
happen the past two summers and we are told that we will see it happen this
summer so well. Now I am not saying that these people have no right to ex-
press their disapproval of their plight, but I am saying that they have no
right to destroy what belongs to other people simply because they cannot accept

what life has brought to them. We each have things in our lives that we would gladly change if we could. But because there are people in the world who can live a lot better than some other people, does not mean that we should all riot to get this for ourselves without working for it. Yet this is the philosophy of some people in our society today. Here again we find that we must learn to accept many things which we do not understand. We never know what opportunity to serve may be ours because of the way we accept the events that come to us. Any event may bring us agony, loneliness, or a sense of inability to cope with life. But we can overcome all of these things just as Jesus did if we put our trust in our Father.

God does not afflict us with more than we can possibly bear. Although there may be times ^{WHEN WE} ~~that~~ are not so sure of this. It is human nature to doubt, to have misgivings, and to worry. But we can turn our doubts and worries into peace and comfort by trusting in God. Jesus gave us the example of complete trust in God. The trust that Jesus showed during His time of suffering was like that of a little child. But He showed His love for His Father by taking Him at His word and submitting to His will. Our love and our trust should parallel the love and trust of Jesus. If He was able to submit to the will of His Father, under the very extreme circumstances that He had to face, then there is no reason why we can't do likewise in the very mild circumstances we face. God loves us. We are each one of His children. As a Father, we should be able to come to Him and talk to Him through prayer, and then be willing to do His will as He reveals it to us in our lives. As followers of Jesus, let us each try to follow His example and try to live our lives each day, striving to do the will of our Father. Let us pray.

"His Acceptance!"

Text: Matthew 26:42b,

My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, thy will be done."

At the foot of the Mt. of Olives is an enclosed spot that is called Gethsemane. There are presently eight olive trees there, and it is believed that these remaining eight trees were there when Jesus came and prayed in this garden. We are told that beggars line the road around this place, but they only bother the visitors upon their return from the garden. The reason being, that the individual who has gone to the garden in which Jesus prayed, and has knelt ~~on the spot on which Jesus knelt~~ perhaps on the very spot on which Jesus knelt, is moved very deeply and is more receptive to giving to those who seek help.

This place has become a shrine which ~~all~~ is a must to all visitors who strive to retrace the steps of Jesus. Thus beggars and merchants are prone to take advantage of a golden opportunity such as this.

We are also told that at the time of Jesus there were no gardens of any size in Jerusalem, because it was a city built on a hill, and every inch of building space was used to the best advantage. The wealthy citizens ^{private} had gardens on the slopes of the Mt. Of Olives. The word Gethsemane means, "Olive Vat", or "Olive Press." It was believed that in order to have access to a garden on the Mt. Of Olives, a person had to know the owner. Thus it is thought that Jesus was friends with yet another influential person who owned this garden. We have seen in this passion story of Jesus that there have been several instances in which ~~an~~ unknown persons, and probably persons of wealth supported the ministry of Jesus from behind the scenes. Someone supplied the donkey upon which Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Someone supplied the upper room in which they ate the Last Supper.. Someone must have supplied the garden in which Jesus prayed. The only instance that ~~ix~~ records the silent supporters of Jesus, is the report that Joseph of Arimathea comes

forawrd to claim the body of Jesus after He is dead.

There are certain things we can see when we look at the acceptance of Jesus. We first see that He had a certain air of confidence in what he was doing. We can say this because in a few verses preceeding what we read as Scripture, we read, "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mt. Of Olives." Now although the singing of this hymn was a part of the Passover Feast and involved the singing of Psalm 115 - 118, just this once Jesus could have requested that it be omitted if he were so troubled that he could not bear to ~~xxxxxx~~ sing before his arrest. But the very nature of the Psalms sung ^{speaks} ~~xxxxxx~~ of a strength that comes from outside of ourselves. Perhaps we have often thought of Jesus going to his cross as a man defeated abd beaten. As a man filled with dread and forboding. But he went instead as a man singing - with a heart newly dedicated to God and a spirit filled with a strange joy. Listen to the words of this last Psalm of the hymn they sung, and see if it is not a song that would uplift the soulf of any man. (Read Psalm 118).

Thus we see here a note of triumphant acceptance.

But even with this joy in the knowledge of the strength of God, Jesus had intermittant periods of anguish. We can only compare it with the feeble human comparison, of someone who is awaiting the start of an important event or moment in his or her life. Something like an acotr or actress awaiting the opening curtain. Or in sports, awaiting the opening kickoff, or the first pitch. All of these moments cause bütterflies, and a certain sense of dread and forboding. I am sure that all of us at one time or another have been involved in similar circumstances and have questioned ourselves about it, asking the question, "What am I doing here? How did I ever let myself get talked into this?" But after the beginning takes place, we are able to fulfill our role whatever it may be. Thus it probably was with Jesus, only on a much more greater scale.

Here in this garden the real struggle actually began for Jesus. He knew that all of other events were mere preliminaries leading up to the main event. Now the main event was only moments away as he knelt here in prayer. Here is also where Satan could once again come forth to lead his thoughts and his determination away from fdoing the will of the Father. Thoughts such as his being too young to die, what purpose was really being served in this sacrifice, why did this have to happen and so on?

His prayer in the garden was, "My Father." By coming to God in this manner he came to him as ~~xxxxx~~ any child would seeking guidance and help from a loving father. But through all of this is the lesson for each of us, and that is accepting what we cannot understand. There has been considerable argument down through the years as to whether Jesus really knew and understood all of the ramifications of the act which he was about to perform. Whether he did or not is really immaterial. What is more important is the fact that we have before us ~~xxxxxxxx~~ a lesson on complete acceptance of what life is setting forth, and a complete ~~xxxxx~~ reliance that God will see us through. This was what Jesus showed most strongly in His acceptance. His attitude ~~xxx~~ as determined by his actions was just about, "Well, I ~~xxxx~~ do not understand all that you are asking of me, but if this is what you want me to do, then I will do it. You have led me and directed me in the past, and I have been blessed by your help, so I'll continue to accept what you give to me, for I know it will turn out for the best."

Many times I talk to people about the problems and concerns of life, and often the question arises, "Why does this have to happen?" Or they will ask, "Why me," or, "Why my family?" All of these questions are legitimate and we do indeed seek for answers. But there are no hard and fast answers. We can only say as Jesus, "What you want me to do I will do, and what you want me to accept I will accept."

Which brings us to our third point and that is the answer of Jesus, "Thy will be done." In the perfect prayer that Jesus gave to his disciples and to us, are to be found the words, "Thy will be done." Here he uses it in his own personal prayer to God, thus showing us that this should always be our prayer. ~~My~~ "Not what I want God, but what You want for me, ~~or~~ whatever it is you want me to do." This should be the example that we follow and pattern our prayers from.

To cry as Jesus, "Let this cup pass from me" is only a natural human cry, and there is nothing wrong with it. But always we must add to it, "Nevertheless, not what I want, but what you want for me." Jesus was able to do this simply because all of his life was lived in this manner. But you see we try to lean upon our own wills and our own ways. Our own will becomes so dear to us, that nothing else seems reasonable, or is so right for us. It is then that God takes a secondary role, and we have become self-sufficient.

But Jesus showed us what true sonship is, by his renunciation of self, and his acceptance of God's will for his life. And his acceptance of God's will for his death is just that much stronger a case for our following in his steps.

In the Gospel of John he said, "My meat is to do the will of him who sent me." Running through all of the life of Jesus and in particular his last week of his life, is the thread of placing his life in the hands of God and seeking to follow what God had ~~desired~~ willed for him to do.

Our love and our trust of the Father should parallel that of Jesus. Like a little child he accepted God at his word, and did His Father's will. Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote in his poem "Memoriam," "Our wills are ours, to make them thine." This is how Jesus accepted his life, and his death. This is the acceptance that God also demands of us. Let us each strive to accept God at His word and to know that He will be with us as Jesus promised in the Gospel, "Lo I am with you always ~~unto~~ even unto the end of the world."

"Tragedy To Triumph!"
Act IV Dining Out

Le 22:27-30a

"For which is the greater, one who sits at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have continued with me in my trials; as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

"When do we eat?" popular phrase around Link home familiar ring to many here prob.

Well known to disciples

feeding of 4000, & 5000 dis. not only concerned show crowd fed, but concerned personal hunger.

But act 4, not only meal but, ^{ENJOYING A RARE} chance fellowship
Perhaps dis looked enviously times could be alone Js pleasure to be guarded zealously
almost always surrounded by people seeking help
can draw this conclus, we read several instances
dis tried discourage peop sot Js aid

On this occasion precede East of Pass, came & asked,

"Where will we prepare this meal with you?"

surprisingly Js answers go Jerus,

look man carry water jug.

when spot, follow

1st sounds rather absurd, look man carry water jar.

actually rather unique,

those days pre-womens libe women carry all water j

rare site see man carry jar

simple task then look man carry jar

Then say to householder, ^{the teacher says to you} "Where is the guest room

where I am to eat the Pass with my dis.?"

pre-arranged plan.

prob hidden friend Js

hidden because risk with authorities,

helped quiet, unobtrusively

such case man owned house

pre-arrangement - man send serv carry water given day

J disc look for him, prob cert spot,

they follow, ask master where eat,

password, "Teacher wants to know?"

The crowds that went before Him and that followed Him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest."

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 7, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "OPEN THE GATES OF THE TEMPLE" KNAPP
"ADORATION" BOROWSKI

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 176 "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE: THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MARK 15: 16-39

HYMN No. 158 "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "THE PALMS"

FAURE

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

ANTHEM: "JESUS OF NAZARETH: HOSANNA!"

HANDLEN

SERMON: "ANOTHER HILL"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 161 "BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RIDE ON! RIDE ON IN MAJESTY! DYKES"

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE PALMS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE ALTAR IN MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. JOHN J. SWEENEY BY THE ALVIN TAIT FAMILY. YOU ARE WELCOME TO HAVE THEM AFTER THE SERVICE - THE USHERS WILL PASS THEM OUT.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES PENAR. DEACON AND MRS. RAYMOND COVERT WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY: SHARON STAUFFER, LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCPRIDE.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING PERSONS INTO OUR CHURCH FELLOWSHIP TODAY.

BY CONFIRMATION: STEVE BASEHORE GEORGE MARBURGER
CHRIS CAMPBELL DENNIS MASTER
GORDON KENNEDY BILLY SHEPPECK
NORENE KERR CHERYL SNYDER
NANCY LINK JEFF SNYDER
BRIAN PFABE BILLY WATTERSON

LETTER OF TRANSFER: PAUL HOLT

REV. RALPH C. LINK ROBERT K. SYBERT
MRS. SHIRLEY LINK MRS. KAREN VENSEL
DALE LINK MRS. EMOGENE YOAS
LLOYD LINK
PAUL W. PFABE
MRS. BETTY PFABE
LINDA PFABE

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

LARRY R. FALKNER
MRS. BRENDA MCKRUIT
DEBORAH MELTON

TONIGHT: 6:30 - YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE.

WED. - 7:30 - PREPARATORY SERVICE "HIS DEVOTION"

THURS. - 7:30 - HOLY COMMUNION (PEWS) "HIS DETERMINATION"

MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON WILL PLAY THE PIANO TODAY.

WE WISH TO THANK THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR THE CORSAGE

AND BOUTONNIERS, ALSO FOR RENTAL OF GOWNS FOR CONF. C.

GOOD FRI. BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH 8-10 - LUTHERN HALL.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 235

I more thing points out,
the effect crucif on centurion sttd by saw exec
carried out properly.
We read text (read it)

Or find out mean, look other trans.
Plm. A Son of God, New Engl, A Son of God, Jerus bib,
A Son of God, early RSV, A Son of God
1. best RSV, & King James, The Son of God.

Looked up greek double check.
Ex: logos means word. In sentence if by self means
word. If gas greek o pronounced He front, this def
article, it mean The Word.
This verse has original gr, The Son

Why distinction? to prove A or The?
Just this, if A Son of God, then Js not unique.
All us A Son of God, A generic term, not mas, fem.
But He become THE Son God, something special, really
unique, out ordinary from the earth

Js say Jn. "And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all
men to myself."

Jn goes on tell this signify how he die
In this Js tell magnetic power of cross.
His sac on that cross to draw ppl all walks life
Signif of centurion, 1st man accept Christ for what
He actually was.

Perhaps now see why Lenten series chronological order,
& that we observed Palm Sun 1st Sun Lent

These came this morn, think hear story nice little tale
beautiful Sun. ride thru sts Jerus, by meek little man
on meek little donkey, I indeed sorry disappoint.
More appropriate today, with these yg peope become
m bers church, we tell what being Xpian means
& what cross really signifies

Conf. & ch mamber, not nice little ritual go thru public
display, or please parents
It call discipleship.

It accept Js Xp gave his life me a sinner
Not only accept what he did, & thus forgives my past
sins, but promise live Xpian life, bring others to
it as well.

It mean speech different, life changed, now live new
life. All things now become new, old passed away.
This very serious step we take or took when joined
church.

If have been content sit comfortable pews Sun after
Sun, neglected tell others our faith, belief.

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act 6 Another Hill

Text: Mark 15:39,

"and when the centurion, who stood by facing him,
saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, 'Truly
this man was the Son of God.'"

In lit, play, movie, whatever medium used convey
story, each episode bld on one preceeding
continues bld til plot reaches hi point
hi point most gripping part story

passion Js like this,
starts out innocently with ride thru Jerus streets
astride donkey
continues bld suspense intrigue & big scene upon
Js & he confronted death penalty
if pass. story read as lit, see contains all elem-
ents necess ideal writing or perhaps best seller.

IF read as lit,
but if read Theologically, then has meaning purpose,
my life.

& this only way can approach it.

All fairly familiar how Js arrived before pilate
heard many things legal, illegal about trial.
Let us look at scene on yet ANOTHER HILL.

Read how abused by soldiers, then taken out be crucif
Simon pressed into service, cross beam carry
Js unable carry, not cause weak, but little sleep,
been beaten, no physical strength left.
(at left, waning, this make execution easier

Mark tell 3rd hr when crucify Js, this 9 AM

Mt Lk no tell, but state dark from 6th 9th hr,
this noon to 3

Jn tells Js released by pilate 6th hr,
this 6-9 trad came from.

More likely 9-3, or 6 hrs, cause crucif slow, pain

Mark acct read curtain torn 2, top-bottom

Signif this, curt hide holy of holies

No man penetrate veil except priest Day Atonement

Spirit God dwell behind curt

God separated peop by curt, no man knew what like

but death Js way opened God,

veil separated by Js, way open presence God

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

31

Or worse yet if have not come except once yr, we
guilty betray Js as surely Judas Iscariot.

Out task Xpian, live, give, share.

Means we live as Xpian, try be Xpian all things.

Means give what can, what able give.

Means give possess to God according how blessed,

Blessed much, give much, blessed little, give lit.

But if have much, give little, again turn back God &
subject damnation.

Be a Xpian means give of selves with talents to share
them with others.

Must share our love, our concern, our talents & above
all, must share Jesus Christ.

This asking too much?

Of course it isn't.

We each have much we can live, and give, and share.

(Illustration policeman in Indiana)

Here examp ordinary man involved bizarre circum,
yet he able serve Lord.

Can we common people do any less.

U have seen these yg peop accept Xp today.

Have seen these adults reprofess their faith,

Now up U & I to join with them in spreading Gospel
of Xp.

U & I should show them by our examp.

Are we up to task, or was merely another formality.

Would each do well adopt last verse closing hymn,

Miss Elizabeth Clephane wrote,

"I take O cross thy shadow, for my abiding place,
I seek no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross."

May we each re-examine our hearts, our lives, and our
conscience, & perhaps after doing so we will find we
need to re-profess & re-accept Jesus Christ in order
to set our lives aright.

If any unsure or uncertain where stand in relation to
Christ, be glad talk you about it.

"Tragedy To Triumph!"

Act VI The Cross

Text: Mark 15:39,

"And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus
breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God!'"

In literature, or in a play or movie, whatever the medium used to convey the story, ~~the~~ each episode builds upon the one preceeding and continues to build until finally the plot reaches a high point. This high point is usually at the most gripping point of the story.

The Passion of Jesus Christ was very much like this. It all seems to start out so innocently with a ride through the streets of Jerusalem astride a donkey, and then it continues to build in suspense and intrigue until finally the one big scene is upon Him and Jesus is confronted with ^{ATKIAL 8} the death penalty. If we were to read this Passion story as literature, we could see that it contains all of the elements necessary to make it an ideal piece of writing and perhaps a best seller. I said IF we were to read it only as literature. But if we read it and study it along the lines of being Theological and having a deep bearing upon my religion, then it takes on an aspect of not only good literature, but as being very significant for my life. And this is the only way that we can approach it.

We are all fairly familiar with all of the background of how Jesus has arrived at this ~~day~~ moment in His life when he faces his accusers before Pilate, so we need not delve into this area too much. We have also heard many things said about the trial and its legality or illegality, so we will not delve into that area either. Instead, let us look at the scene from the point of when Jesus is taken out to be crucified.

We read of His being abused by the Roman soldiers and how He is then led away to the scene of the execution. On the way a man named Simon is pressed into service to bear the cross beam of the cross,

since Jesus is unable to do so. This does not mean to imply that he was physical weakling, but this is a result of the long sleepless night He endured, as well as the physical beatings he has had and the anguish and torment He endured up to this point. So His physical strength is waning and this made the task of those performing the execution that much easier.

Mark tells us it was about the third hour when they crucified Jesus and this would have placed the time at 9:00 A.M. Matthew and Luke do not state when the crucifixion began, but they do remark that it was dark from the sixth to the ninth hour, or from 12:00 to 3:00. John tells us that Jesus was released from Pilate to the soldiers at the sixth hour or at noon. And this is where we get the tradition that He hung on the cross from noon until 3:00. But it ^{is} more likely that He hung on the cross 6 hours since crucifixion was a slow and painful death.

In this, Mark's account of the crucifixion we read that the curtain of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This has a good deal of significance behind it. This curtain was the curtain that covered the Holy of Holies. It was the veil beyond which no man could penetrate, except the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. It was the curtain behind which the Spirit of God dwelt. So you see up to this time God had been hidden and remote. He was a God that was separated from the people by a curtain. No man knew what He was like. But in the death of Jesus we now see the way opened up to God. God was now revealed He was no longer hidden by a veil. The veil had been separated by Jesus and the way was now opened to the presence of God.

But there is also one more thing that needs to be pointed out, and this was the effect the crucifixion had upon the Roman centurion who stood by and saw that the execution was carried out in the proper manner. We read, "And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that he thus breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God.'"

In order to find out just what this means I went back to the original Greek to ~~extensive~~ satisfy my curiosity. I discovered something that I think is very significant. I checked ^{first} different ~~versions~~ translations of the Bible. In Philip's it reads, "A son of God." In the New English Bible it reads, "A Son of God." In the Jerusalem Bible it reads, "A Son of God." And in the early Revised Standard version of the Bible it also reads, "A Son of God." But in the latest version of the Revised Standard Version and in the King James Version it reads, "The Son of God."

~~Nexts find out just why I checked the Greek and it reads,
 ~~theos oikos dios autheos oikos oikos oikos~~~~

For instance
^

To understand the greek we must first know that a word such a LOGOS standing by itself means A WORD. But if we place the ^{OR THE DEFINITE ARTICLE} word HO in front of it it becomes THE WORD. Thus when we look at this verse in the original Greek we see very clearly the word HO in the sentence which means that it is translated THE Son of God.

Now why the big distinction to prove whether it is A or THE? It becomes important for several reasons and the main one is that if Jesus is A Son of God, He is not really unique, for you and I are really that. But if He becomes THE Son of God, this makes Him something special and something beyond the ordinary, and so something very unique.

Jesus said as recorded in the Gospel of John, ~~He is the~~ ~~lifted up from the earth~~, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John goes on to tell us this was to signify how he would die. Now in this we can see that Jesus is telling the magnetic power of the cross. He is telling that His sacrifice upon that cross was meant to draw people from all walks of life. So the significance of the testimony of the centurion is that ~~he~~ he is the first person to accept Christ for what He was. ~~and this is the cross~~

Now perhaps you can see why I said when we started this Denten series that I would take it in chronological order and we observed ^{that}

Palm Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent. For those of you who came here this morning thinking you were going to hear a nice little tale of a beautiful Sunday ride through the streets of Jerusalem, on a meek little donkey, by a meek little man, I am ^{indeed} sorry to disappoint you. It is more appropriate today with these young people becoming members of the church to tell them and all of us what it means to be a Christian. *AND WHAT THAT CROSS SIGNIFIES.*

Confirmation, and church membership is not a nice little ritual that we go through for public display, or to please our parents. It is a call to discipleship. It is an acceptance that ~~this~~ Jesus Christ gave up His life for me because I am a sinner. It is not only an acceptance of what He did for me, and thus forgives me of my sins of the past, but it is a promise to live a Christian life and to try to bring others into this acceptance by my life, by my speech and by all that I do. And this my friends is a very serious step that we take ~~or~~ took when we joined the church. And if we have been content to sit in our comfortable pews Sunday after Sunday and have neglected to tell others of our Christ and what He means to ^{us}, then we have betrayed our Lord, just as surely as Judas ~~the~~ / SCARLOT DID.

~~Perhaps some of the message is not heard and falling on deaf ears, because I was greatly surprised to hear people say~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Our task as Christians is to live, to give, and to share. This means we are to live as Christians and to try to be Christians in all things. It means we are to ^{GIVE} to the Lord what we can, and what we are able to give. This means that we should ^{GIVE OF} ~~share~~ our possessions ^{to} God according to how he has blessed us. If He has blessed us with much then we must give much, and naturally if we have little we can only give little. But if we have much and we give little we are again turning our backs upon God and are subject to His damnation. To be a Christian also means to give of ourselves with our talents and to share this with others. We must share our love, our concern, our talents and above all we must share Jesus

Christ. Now is this asking too much of anyone of us here this morning?

Of course it isn't, because we each have much we can live, and give and share.

(Illustration of policeman in Indiana)

Here is an example of a common ordinary man who was involved in a bizarre circumstance and yet in it, he was able to serve His Lord. Can we common ordinary people do any less? You have seen these young people accept Jesus Christ today, and you have heard them make their ~~xxxxx~~ public acceptance of Him. Now it is up to you and I to join with them in spreading the Gospel of Christ, and to show them by our example what it means to be a Christian. Are we up to the task or was this just merely another formality we go through?

We would each do well to adopt as our theme the wonderful last verse of our closing hymn written by Miss Elizabeth Clephane who wrote,

"I take O Cross thy shadow, for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the Cross."

May we each one re-examine our hearts, our lives, and our consciences ^{WILL FIND WE} and perhaps after doing so we need to re-profess and re-accept Christ in ~~our lives~~ order to set out lives right.

"His Devotion!"

Scripture: John 6:22-40

Text: John 6:38,39,

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day."

When think qualities Js that stand out, can't help think His Devotion
Word devotion used like many others, convey several things, & have implied in meaning more than one thing.

We speak devoted son or daughter usually meant, loving, obedient, trustworthy, concerned, cares deeply etc.
Other words devotion contains many attributes rather than one.

Js son such as this showed devo earthly father, mother, with love, concern, obedience, trustworthyness etc.

Showed devo to H. Father complete subj of life to what Father wanted to do.

Also tried show His Devo by pointing them to Father
Other words His Devo real thing & lived, but something tried instill by verbal message also

Peop came Js after feed 5M, Js tells bluntly only w ted see him, more food, vs 26
Not interested him, but what can do

vs 27, tells sealed by God
ancient times signet ring of King, ruler, gov. etc
archaeology & rings.
soft clay, signet, hardened unbroken official.

vs 28 question?

vs 29 answer, believe in whom sent.

Ask for sign, peop sceptical, perhaps no more than today.

wanted tangible evidence, something concrete told of manna & how this evidence of God to forefathers.

Js tell He evidence, no further proof needed
He bread sent by God, & life sustained this bread

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 1974

THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

PREPARATORY SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE: "LENTEN MEDITATION" PEERY
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 219 "SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE"
*INVOCATION, PAGES 14-20 IN HYMNAL

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*THE LITANY

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 6:22-40

*OFFERING

OFFERTORY "BEFORE THE CROSS" OVERHOLT

HYMN No. 214 "JUST AS I AM"

ORGAN MEDITATION

SERMON: "HIS DEVOTION"

EXHORTATION, PAGE 18

CONFESSION OF SIN

CONFESSIONAL QUESTIONS AND ASSURANCES

*HYMN OF DEDICATION 464 "DWELL IN ME, O BLESSED SPIRIT"

*BENEDICTION AND TRIPLE AMEN

*POSTLUDE "RECESSIONAL IN B FLAT" OTIS

*CONGREGATION STANDING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (PEW) WILL BE

CELEBRATED TOMORROW EVENING AT 7:30 P.M.

RECEPTION FOR NEW MEMBERS WILL FOLLOW IN THE UNDERCROFT -

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED FOR A FELLOWSHIP HOUR.

A GOOD FRIDAY BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH WILL BE HELD FROM 8-10 AT LUTHER HALL ON MCKEAN STREET NEXT TO LIBRARY.

OUR SANCTUARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 7-9 P.M. ON GOOD FRIDAY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO DESIRE TO MEDITATE AND PRAY.

3 AM SERVICE ST. ANDREW'S

WELCOME VISITORS

ETCHAM HOSP ALL GEN.

vs 38 spells out plainly

2/

He telling he complete devo cause of Father
nothing can sway, deter from task
He willing place self hands of God
own will not considered any way, shape, form.

Here complete subjection will of Father
Difficult we understand this complete devo
never been another walk face earth devoted so
completely Js.

Can cite exams men, women devoted one special cause
but no one devoted completely, life surrendered
all faculties, all possess, all ambitions, all
desires, all everything serving cause as Js.

Think what take do this.

This require complete subjection all thots, all
ambitions, all desires, all very things life,
all wrapped up 1 cause.

Our minds cannot fathom this meaning

We come last Wed. Holy Week, prepare selves Lord's
Supper, tomorrow nite

We in sense prepare selves & lives, in new perspect
We strive say, "I sinner, sinned many sins past,
now try devo all thots, all life, all desires,
all ambitions, all of life to worthily prepare
partake Lord's Supper, of Body & Blood.

We looking our devo & comparing to His Devotion.
When make comparison cannot we see Ours & His
far, far apart?

Can we not feel as Jon the Bap, ~~xxx~~ we standing
in presence of one whose shoes unworthy to lace?

Do not give sense shame & guilt, that one loved
us so much before ever born, he willing die for us?

This was His Devotion,

A devotion never be ours

but a devo God asks us have in us whatever measure
can possibly have.

Let us ask God's guidance, blessing in our lives
to have devo more ~~xx~~ deeper, much stronger, than
it ever been.

Ask more on par with His Devotion, the Devo of
our Lord, Saviour Jesus Christ.

"His Devotion!"

Scripture: John 6:22-40

Text: John 6:38,39,

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day."

When we think of the qualities that stand out in the life of Jesus we cannot help but be reminded of "His Devotion." The word devotion is so often used like many other words, to convey several things, and to have implied in its meaning, more than one meaning.

For instance we speak of a devoted son or daughter. What is usually meant by this is a person who is loving, is trustworthy, who is concerned, who cares very deeply about the parent and so on. In other words the one word devotion, contains many other attributes, rather than just one.

Jesus was a Son such as this. He showed His Devotion to His earthly father and mother by his love, his concern, his trustworthiness and by all of the other things that this devotion entailed. But he also showed His Devotion to His Father by completely subjecting His life to what the Father had for Him to do. Along with this He tried to show His Devotion, ~~by~~ to others by pointing them to the Father. In other words His Devotion was not only a real thing He lived, but it was something that He tried to instill in others by His verbal message. Let us look at this in the portion of Scripture we read this evening.

The people came to Jesus after the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus tells them very bluntly they came not because they wanted to see Him, but because they had seen a miracle performed with food. In other words they would gladly hang around until it was time to eat, in order to be fed in a like manner. They were not interested in Him so much, as they were in what He could do for them.

He told them He was ~~xxxx~~ sealed by God. By this He meant that God had placed His stamp upon Him. In ancient times, Kings, Governors, rulers, anyone who was an official in a certain way, had signet rings. With these

rings they would place a seal upon a document. It was done in this manner, the ~~xxxxxx~~ document was usually in ~~xxxxxx~~ the form of a scroll, and it was rolled up. Soft clay was placed at the edges to keep it closed. The signet ring of the king or ruler, was impressed into the soft clay, and thereby the seal of that official was placed for the receiver to see. This scroll then was set aside ~~xxxxxx~~ for the clay to harden, and when it was delivered, everyone could determine whether or not it had been tampered with. If the seal was unbroken, it was an ~~xxx~~ considered an official document.

In a class on Archaeology at Seminary, we went to the Museum in Philadelphia, and saw there the pottery, tools, utensils and things found at different biblical excavation sites. One thing that I found very interesting, was the signet rings from the different kings and rulers of those ancient times. I held in my hand a small clay tablet that was written by the Summerians over 4000 years ago, and was formed in much this manner.

Then the people asked Jesus what they needed to do to be doing the will of God? vs28.

Jesus answered, vs 29, Believe in him whom he has sent. In other words, they are to begin showing a devotion to God.

They then do as so many before had done, they ask for a sign from Him so they may believe. In ancient times the people were very sceptical. Perhaps no more sceptical than many people today, but always they wanted proof that they might have something concrete, something tangible that they could see with their own eyes and believe it. That told Jesus of the manna that their forefathers ate in the wilderness, and how this was a visible proof of the guidance of God.

But Jesus tells them that they need no further sign than He Himself. That He is the new bread that God has sent from heaven, and they can have life and be sustained from this bread for all eternity.

And here in verse 38 He spells it out as plainly as He ever explained anything else in scripture. He says, "For I have come down from heaven

not to do my ~~will~~ own will, but the will of Him who sent me."

He is telling them that he was completely devoted to the cause of His Father and that nothing was going to sway Him or deter Him from this task. He was saying that He was willing to place His life completely in the hands of God, and that His own will was not to be considered in way, shape, or form.

Now here we see the complete subjection of His will to that of His Father. It is difficult to understand this complete devotion. I think I can say that there has never been another person who walked on the face of this earth who was completely devoted to a cause more than Jesus. I am sure we can cite examples of men and women who have been dedicated to a certain goal, or a certain aim, and have sought after that goal or aim with complete devotion to that task. But never, has there lived a man or woman who has completely surrendered all of life to a total devotion of all ~~faculties~~ faculties, all possessions, all ambitions, all desires, all of everything to serving the cause, such as Jesus did.

Just think of what this would take to do this! It would require the complete subjection of all thoughts, all desires, all of the very things that ~~make~~ go into life, all of them wrapped up in one basic cause. Our minds cannot completely fathom what this would mean.

We have come here tonight in this last Wednesday during Holy week, to prepare ourselves to partake of the Lord's Supper tomorrow night. We are in a sense looking at our lives from a new perspective. We are striving to say in effect, "God, I am a sinner, I have sinned many sins in the past, and I am now trying to devote all my thoughts and all of my life, to prepare it to worthily partake of the Supper of the Lord's Body and Blood."

We are looking at our devotion and we are making the comparison between it and His Devotion. But when we make this comparison, can we not see that Our Devotion and His Devotion are far, far apart? Can we not

understand that like John the Baptist we are standing in the presence of one whose very shoes we are unworthy to lace? Does it not give us a sense of shame and guilt that there was one who loved us so much, even before we were ever born that He was willing to die for us? This was His Devotion. A devotion that can never be ours. But a devotion that God asks us to have in us in whatever measure we possibly can have.

Let us ask God's guidance and blessing in our lives to have ~~this~~ a devotion which is much stronger, much deeper ~~than~~ than it has ever been, and a devotion that is more on a par with His Devotion, the devotion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 11, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

HOLY COMMUNION - 7:30 P.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE E. MAESTOSO" TSCHAIKOWSKI
"CALVARY" RICHOLSON

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 336 "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH
KEEP SILENCE"

* INVOCATION AND PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 6:41-59

*GLORIA PATRI

*EVENING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE
OFFERING

OFFERTORY "THE SUFFERING SAVIOR" WILSON
ANTHEM: "O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED" HASSLER

CHANCEL CHOIR AND MARILYN STEPHENSON ON FLUTE
"HIS DETERMINATION"

COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"

*COMMUNION SERVICE - PAGE 32

EXHORTATION - CONFESSION - ABSOLUTION

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SERAPHIC HYMN

THE INSTITUTION - CHORAL AMEN

AGNUS DEI

HOLY COMMUNION (PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE WITH PASTOR)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - DOXOLOGY

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 343 "A PARTING HYMN WE SING"

*BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" VAN WOERT

--- *CONGREGATION STANDING ---

OUR SANCTUARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 7-9 P.M.
TOMORROW EVENING, GOOD FRIDAY, FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE
TO ENTER, MEDITATE, OR PRAY. THERE WILL BE NO FORMAL
SERVICE.

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS, REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.

PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S RECORD WILL BE ACCURATE. IF VISITORS DESIRE TO RECEIVE CREDIT AT THEIR HOME CHURCH, PUT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EITHER YOUR PASTOR OR YOUR CHURCH ON THE BACK OF THE CARD AND IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED
THIS COMING EASTER SUNDAY, AT 8:00 A.M. (ALTAR) AND
AT 11:00 A.M. (PEW).

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE RECEPTION FOR
NEW MEMBERS - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE THIS
EVENING IN THE UNDERCROFT. THE CONGREGATION AND
FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS FELLOWSHIP HOUR.

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL ALSO SERVE AS USHERS.

TOMORROW - GOOD FRIDAY - A BREAKFAST FOR THE YOUTH - WILL BE FROM 8-10 AT LUTHER HALL, NEXT TO THE LIBRARY ON MCKEAN ST.

To say we must feed on xp, is ~~xxx~~ not say we must 2/
eat his body & drink his blood
means instead, we absorb his teach. take life inside
selves **READ BACK OF TONITE BULLETIN**

Wm. Barclay compares to book on shelf
As long as no read it remain outside,
when read it become part us, in our minds, our
hearts, & no longer outside us.

When Js say, abide in me, & I will abide in you, or
eat my flesh and my blood, he saying, feed minds,
hearts, souls on me

He telling live lives his words, live, relive his
words, actions, deeds until we become drenched,
permeated, saturated, filled with him, & life of God

Thus we see from His determin, to not only live as
God wants us to live, but we should be completely
filled & full of spirit that comes from God.

He saying, if we were to have same determin our lives
we could live for God just as He.

Thus we should come Lord's table with strong determin
to partake figuratively, metaphorically of body,
blood of xp. & have it indwell us, renew us to go for
forth stronger, more determined disciples of J C

It, table we come to, not habit, or remain member
good standing,

it table come as sinners need of forgiveness, of sin
& renewal of minds in ingestion of bread & wine

To find new strength flowing thru bodies, because
we, in closest contact, Lord & Saviour J C
That we have found Him once again at His table,
& we have eaten & drunk in His house.

Thus when hear words of Js, (Text),
we hearing His Determination to share self with us
Let us show our determination to be numbered among
His peop, & to eat His table in new & renewed way
tonite.

"His Determination!"

Scripture: John 6:41-59
Text: John 6:51,

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven;
if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever;
and the bread which I shall give for the life of the
world is my flesh."

Determination of Js very plainly evidenced portion
scrip. read tonite

He expanding upon portion scrip read last nite
Jn points out some Jews in opposition in this crowd
they want question Js & statements

1st question He come down from heaven

They argue, "After all, did we not know your
father Jos. and your mother Mary? How can u say
u come down heaven?"

Js gives statement no comprehend,
we say throw curve to them

He says, (Text)

& again they question meaning & purpose

This questioning & arguing not ceased that day to
this.

If we read verse as other churches have we can
readily see, verse leads to great controversy
And it has done just that

It from verse that belief in transubstantiation has
sprung.

Roman Cath. & Luther belief

What means, during consecration of elements, bread
actually turns into body of Christ, wine into blood

Ulrich Zwingli disagreed with Luther this point, &
broke off to form Reformed church

From vs & secretness of early xpians that pagans
believed xpians indulged cannibalism, thus persecute

What Js really saying, spoken metamorphically & not
literally

He saying, this secret real discipleship, xpian faith
& living

When He say, I vine, he no mean He climbing tree.

We understand he making comparison, metaphor & we
accept as such

"His Determination!"

Scripture: John 6:41-59
Text: John 6:51,

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The determination of Jesus is very plainly evidenced in the portion of scripture that we read this evening. What Jesus is really doing is simply expanding upon what he said in the portion of scripture that we read last night. John points out that there are some Jews in opposition in this crowd and they want to question Jesus on His statements.

First they question the validity of His statement that He has come down from heaven. They argue that after all, "did we not know your father Joseph and your mother Mary? How can you say that you have come down from heaven?"

But then Jesus gives them a statement ~~that~~ they cannot comprehend. We would say that he threw them a curve. He says, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." And again they question His meaning and purpose. But this questioning and arguing never has stopped from that day to this. If we read this verse as many others in the church have done we can readily see that this verse could lead to a great controversy. And it has done just that. It is from this verse that the Roman Catholic Church, and the Lutheran Church as founded by Martin Luther, holds the belief that during the ^{consecration} ~~institution~~ of the elements, at some unknown point, the bread and the wine miraculously turn into the real flesh and blood of Christ. Ulrich Zwingli one of the founders of the Reformed church disagreed with Luther on this one point and therefore founded the Reformed church apart from the Lutheran Church.

It was from this verse and from the secretness of the early Christian

Church worship service that the pagans believed the Christians indulged in cannibalism, and were thus persecuted.

But what Jesus was saying, was really being spoken metamorphically and not literally. He was really saying that here was the real meaning of ~~the~~ discipleship, and the secret of Christian faith and living. When He said he was the vine, we do not think that he literally is a vine growing up the side of a tree ^{OR A BLOSSOM.} We understand that he was speaking metaphorically, and when he uses one metaphor and we accept it as such, we should accept all metaphors in the same way. To say that we must feed on Christ is ~~not~~ to mean that we must actually eat his body or drink his blood, but it means to absorb his teachings, to take his life inside ~~ours~~ ours.

William Barclay compares it to a volume sitting on a shelf. Perhaps that volume may be a book by William Shakespeare. As long as the book sits on the shelf unread, it remains outside of us and is therefore external. But when the volume is taken from the shelf and read, and digested so to speak, it becomes a part of us, it is in our minds and on our hearts and is no longer outside of us. When Jesus told us to abide in Him and he would abide in us, or to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he was saying to feed our hearts and our souls and our minds on him. He was telling us to live our lives in his words, and to live and relive his deeds in everything that we do until we become drenched and permeated and ~~saturated~~ saturated and filled with Him, and the life of God.

Thus we can see from this His Determination to not only live just exactly as His Father wanted Him to live, but to have us completely filled and full of that same spirit that comes from God. He was saying that if ~~WE~~ ^{WE} were to have this same determination in our lives, we could live for God just as He.

Thus we ^{should} come to the Lord's table with a strong determination to partake figuratively and metaphorically of the body and blood of Christ,

and to have it renew us and indwell us to go forth as stronger, more determined disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a table that we come to, not thorough habit, or just to remain a member in good standing. But to come as sinners in need of forgiveness, and to find in the ingestion of the bread and wine, the forgiveness of our sins, and the renewal of our minds and our bodies. To find new strength flowing thorough our bodies, because we have been in the closest contact with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. That we have found Him once again at His table, and we have eaten and ~~supped~~ drunk with Him in His House.

Thus when we hear the words of Jesus, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I ~~give~~ shall give for the life of the world is my flesh," we are hearing His Determination to share Himself with us, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Let us show our determination to be numbered among His people and to eat at His table in a new and renewed way tonight. Let us pray.

Order of Worship

(Please enter and leave the service only during the ushering intervals
or while the congregation is singing the hymns)

THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS

ORGAN PRELUDE Mr. Daryl C. Kemerer

12:00—THE CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin

CALL TO WORSHIP The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin
Pastor, Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

INVOCATION The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin

*HYMN—" 'Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow"
1. 'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow the star is dimmed that lately shone:
'Tis midnight; in the garden now, the suffering Saviour prays alone.
2. 'Tis midnight, and from all removed, the Saviour wrestles lone with fears:
E'en that disciple whom He loved heeds not his Master's grief and tears.
3. 'Tis midnight, and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know;
Unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Saviour's woe. Amen.

12:05—THE WORD OF INTERCESSION

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:32-38

SOLO "He Shall Feed His Flock" Handel
Miss Molly Bussler

THE MEDITATION The Rev. C. Kenneth Hall
Pastor, The Hill United Presbyterian Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed"

1. Alas! and did my Saviour bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
2. Was it for sins that I have done He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died for man the creature's sin.
4. Thus might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears:
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. Amen.

12:30—THE WORD OF SALVATION

"Today shall thou be with me in Paradise."

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:39-43

DUET "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears" Graham
Mrs. Penelope Kemerer and Mrs. Jean McClaren

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Warren A. Bugbee
Pastor, First United Methodist Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

1. O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.
2. O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I in dust life's glory dead,
From the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. Amen.

12:55—THE WORD OF REMEMBRANCE

"Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!"

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:25-27

SOLO "Forgive Us" DuFault
Miss Ruth Ann Quinlan

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Francis A. Glenn
Pastor, St. Paul's Catholic Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand—
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noonday heat, and the burden of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess—
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross. Amen.

1:20—THE WORD OF LONELINESS

"My God, My God! Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 15:33-34

SOLO "He Touched Me" Gaither
Mr. Paul Reed

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Reinhold K. Weber
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me: lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
4. None and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide. Amen.

1:45—THE WORD OF SUFFERING

"I thirst."

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:28-29

SOLO "He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word" Traditional
Mrs. Richard May

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Calvin W. Ross
Pastor, Oak Hills Christian Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound"

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now can see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. Amen.

In this light then, it unlikely Js reiterating what said previous occasion. 2/
More likely cry It finished, cry victory, triumph
that it signified end suffering part his life
offering part being reality role in life Js
had live

Dr. Herbert Simpson, preaching Westminster church London said this word, "It has been called with perfect justice, the most momentous word the world has ever heard."

And if we analyse word this way, we indeed see was not statement mere completion of task, but instead word of victory.

A shout of triumph for what taken place
Announcement to world that "IT" finished
"IT" being this instance, Divine plan Almighty God redeem mankind.

This plan was started garden Eden after man fallen from God trying be like God & do ~~own~~ thing.

From that moment on, God set in motion plan save His peop from sins

Js once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."
This was what he was about now.

God's plan was operable in lives patriarchs, Abe, Isaac, Jacob,
In motion in Moses, Joseph, Judges, the kings,
In action in the major, minor prophets.

Al down history Israel God's covenant est. re-est for redemption of his peop.

As Js hung suspend heaven earth, he very readily view whole scene passing before tortured eyes, much like drowning man view life passing by.
and as gaze stretched back several M yrs,
he view all this as some ~~xxx~~ giant jig saw puzz,
forming, shaping, day by day, yr by yr, cent by ce

All this piece by precious piece, put place by hand Al. God, His Father
All of it for child. whom he loved, sought all these yrs.

All this been finished, Js aware purpose of God, been worked out his life.

Js had any misgivings, doubts about role he to play, was prob at this point of execution all came into full focus.

"The Word Of Victory"
"It Is Finished"
April 12, 1974

Text: John 19:30,

"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished;' and He bowed His head, and gave up the spirit."

Read: the text above,
What was finished?
What did He mean?

There are several things to consider about 6th word in order understand what being said by Js
If look at life of any indiv, no matter who, we know life made up many things
2 ingred any life, work, suffering
each person ~~xxxx~~ has certain work thru life
very perform this work entails certain amt suffer achieve it

Js no diff this respect
we know he workerm spoke this often, he said,

"The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works ~~xxxx~~ that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me," and, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and also, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

Now from these quotes of Js, evident He had work & was about it.

So if he speak from standpoint of work he tried do in life, then 6th word simply imply his work ended.
When he say It is Finished, he saying everything for which he labored had been accomplished
These words could also implied terrible ordeal he undergone last few hours, also at end.

Could been triumphant shout he able leave behind executioners, tormentors, & humiliation he endured
Could well be saying, "All you entrusted me been fulfilled. I completed work you sent me do."

But in 17th chap same Gospel John Js says, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."

Js surely must have known that in very short time 3/
when gave spirit back hands Father,
all prophecies of him,
which preceeded him by so many yrs,
all things he prophecied about take place.

Things such as; "I, if I be lifted up will draw all
men unto me."

or, "God so loved the world that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoso-
ever believeth in Him, should not
perish but have everlasting life.
For God sent His Son into the
world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him
might be saved."

When Js said, "It is Finished," he saying salvation
been perfected.

The sins all mankind bought & paid for body, blood
Js Christ.

Way now cleared for individ come Father thru Son
No need offer sacrifice animals
supreme sacrif been made

It is finished was CRY of JOW,
Yes, JOY TO WORLD, LORD HAS COME!

Defeat been turned into VICTORY.

Even man's best effort at execu could not thwart
God's plan of Salvation from being fulfilled.

"IT IS FINISHED," was cry of Jesus,
IT WAS FINISHED INDEED,

And thanks be to God who giveth us the victory
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"The Word Of Victory"

"It Is Finished!"

April 12, 1974

Text: John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit."

"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit." What was finished? What did he really mean? There are several things that we need to consider about this sixth word in order to understand what was being said by Jesus. If we look at the life of any individual, no matter who it may be, we know that life is made up of many things. But two ingredients in any life are work and suffering. Each person has a certain work they perform through life, and the very performance of that work entails a certain amount of suffering to achieve it. Jesus was no different in this respect.

We know of him as a worker for He spoke of this often. He said, "The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." And, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and again, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." Now from these quotations of Jesus it is evident that He had a work and was about it.

So if He was speaking from the standpoint of the work that He tried to do in His life, then this sixth word would simply imply that His work was ended. When he said it is finished, he was saying that every thing for which he had labored had been accomplished. ~~xxxxxx~~ These words could also have implied that the terrible ordeal he had undergone in these last hours was also at an end. It could have been a triumphant shout that he was able to leave behind him, his executioners, his tormentors, and the humiliation he had endured. He could in essence have been saying, "All that you have entrusted to me has been fulfilled. I have completed the work you sent me to do." But in the 17th chapter of this same Gospel of

John, Jesus said, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." So in this light then, it is unlikely that Jesus was merely reiterating what he had said on a previous occasion.

It is more likely that the cry of "It is Finished," was a cry of triumph and of victory. That it signified the end of the suffering part of His life. ~~It said previously that we each have our work and suffering part~~
~~to our lives~~ The suffering part being in reality the role in life that Jesus had to live. Dr. Herbert Simpson preaching in Westminster Church in London on this word said, "It has been called with perfect justice, the most momentous word the world has ever heard." And if we analyse the word in this way we can indeed see that it was not a statement of the mere completion of a task, but instead the word of victory. A shout of triumph for what had taken place. An announcement to the world that "IT" was finished.

"IT," being in this instance the Divine plan of Almighty God to redeem mankind. This plan that was started in the garden of eden after man had fallen from God in trying to be like God and do his own thing. From that moment on, God had set into motion a plan to save His people from their sins. Jesus once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish his work." This was what he was now about.

This plan was operable in the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It was still in motion in the ~~prophets~~ judges and the kings. In the major and the minor prophets. All down through the history of Israel God's covenant was established and reestablished for the redemption of His people.

As Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth, he could very readily view this whole scene passing before his tortured eyes, much like ~~a drowning person~~ we are told a drowning person sees their life pass in review. And as his gaze stretched back over several thousand years, he could view all of this as some giant jig saw puzzle

forming and shaping, day by day, year by year, century by century. All this piece by precious piece put into place by the hand of Almighty God, His Father. All of it for the children ~~Max loved~~ whom He loved and sought all of these years. All of this had been finished, and Jesus was aware that God's purpose had been worked out in His life.

If He had any misgivings or doubts about the role He was to play, it was probably at this point in His execution that all of it came into full focus. He surely must have known that in a very short time, when he gave His spirit back into the hands of the Father, that all of the prophecies which preceeded Him by so many years, and all of the things the He Himself had prophecied were about to take place.

Things such as, "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me," Or, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

~~It is finished, a cry of joy, Yes, Joy to the world the Lord is come~~
Salvation has now been perfected, the sins of all mankind have been bought with the body and blood of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ. ~~xxxxxx~~
~~through this marked the~~ The way was now cleared for the individual to come to the Father through the Son. No more did he need to offer the sacrifices of animals, the supreme sacrifice had been made. It is finished was a ~~CRY~~
of joy. Yes, Joy to the world, the Lord has come. ~~Thanks be to God who~~
~~giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ~~ Defeat had been turned into victory. ~~xxxxxx his xxxxx his xxxxx his xxxxx~~ Even man's best efforts at execution could not thwart God's purpose from being fulfilled. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 14, 1974

THE REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS - ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER - CHOIR DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, GREG BOSKO - ACOLYTES

ORDER FOR 8:00 AND 11:00 COMMUNION

PRELUDE MUSIC: "THE RESURRECTION" JOHNSTON
"CHRIST AROSE" WILSON

SILENT PRAYER

- *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 167 "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"
- *ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
- *EXHORTATION
- *CONFESSION - No. 1, Page 4
- *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION, PASTOR)
- *ASSURANCE OF PARDON (CHORAL AMEN)
- *PRAISE

*PASTOR - O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE - AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

- *DOXOLOGY - No. 551

JUNIOR CHOIR: "ON WINGS OF LIVING LIGHT" BY R. C. WILSON

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MRS. CYNDIE SYBERT

SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 28: 1-10

CHANCEL CHOIR: "WHY WEEPEST THOU? HE IS RISEN!"

SOLO - VON MALONEY, MARILYN STEPHENSON - PIANO.

SERMON: "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

- *GLORIA PATRI

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

- *CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR - THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE - AND WITH THY SPIRIT

*PASTOR - LET US PRAY

- *PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "AT THE BREAK OF DAWN" MOORE

COMMUNION HYMN No. 341 "HERE, O MY LORD"

- *CALL TO COMMUNION - PAGE 32

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *INSTITUTION *AGNUS DEI

THE HOLY COMMUNION - (8:00 SERVICE - USHERS WILL ESCORT
YOU TO THE ALTAR

THE HOLY COMMUNION (11:00 SERVICE IN PEWS -

PLEASE RETAIN ELEMENTS AND COMMUNE WITH PASTOR)

- *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING - CHORAL AMEN
- *HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 165 "THE DAY OF RESURRECTION"
- *BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN
- ORGAN POSTLUDE "ALLELULIA! ALLELULIA!"

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

WE INVITE ALL CHRISTIANS REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION,
TO PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WITH US.
PLEASE FILL OUT A COMMUNION CARD SO THAT OUR CHURCH'S
RECORDS ARE ACCURATE. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN THE
RECEPTACLE ON THE BACK OF THE PEWS.

IF VISITORS WILL PUT EITHER THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF
THEIR CHURCH, OR THEIR PASTOR ON THE BACK OF THE
COMMUNION CARD, IT WILL BE FORWARDED.

THE ELDERS AND DEACONS WILL SERVE AS USHERS TODAY.
ELDER AND MRS. PAUL CAMPBELL WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.

MRS. BARBARA VARGO AND MISS KAREN KENNEDY WILL BE IN
NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. BETTY FILSON - BOMH;

MR. GEORGE B. EICHORN - ALLEGHENY GENERAL HOSPITAL.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. GUY E. WILES ON
THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. THEY WERE MARRIED
APRIL 16, 1924 BY REV. O. T. MOYER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST (REFORMED) OF SUGAR CREEK TWP.
ARMSTRONG CO. MRS. WILES HAS BEEN A PATIENT AT
SUNNYVIEW HOSPITAL SINCE AUGUST 1973.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS A SHUT-IN PLEASE CONTACT
THE PASTOR.

MONDAY - 7:30 - FIDELITY BIBLE CLASS

WEDNESDAY - 8:00 - GOLDEN CIRCLE

THURSDAY - 10:00 A.M. - MARY MARTHA CIRCLE WILL MEET
AT THE CHURCH FOR REHERSAL.

THURS. - 7:00 - BUTLER COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING -
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 318

WE WELCOME ALL THOSE WHO VISIT WITH US TODAY IN THE
NAME OF THE RISEN LORD. WE HOPE YOU WILL SIGN OUR
GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE NAVE.

SUNRISE SERVICE - EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 3, 1994 - 7:00 A.M.
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAKFAST AFTER SERVIE THIS MORNING, NO CHARGE - FREE-WILL
OFFERING IF CARE TO CONTRIBUTE
CHURCH SERVICE AT 9:30 FOLLOWING BREAKFAST
THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 9:30 SERVICE

ASCRPTION

CALL TO WORSHIP:

NOW IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE FIRST
FRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT.
THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

*HYMN

OFFERING/PRAYER

*DOXOLOGY

MORNING PRAYER

HYMN

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 28:1-10

SERMON: "HAPPY NEW YEAR" - ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 4/14/74

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

SCRIP: MT 28:1-10; SRM: "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

(ILWS CM OF HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERU & EASTER EVE & AWAIT EASTER DAWN)

SIMLAR PCWSTOM OF AWAIT NEW YRS DAY

THIS 1ST DAY NW BEGINS & LET ME B 1ST WISH W-HAPPY NEW YEAR

TH'S DAY LONG AWAIT IN HISTRY & SPECILY IN LIF JS XP

S CULMINATIN OF BLVD/SWMT/TEAR OUR SAVIOR JS XP

ME LINGRHELD CAPTIV IN TOMB-HE ALIV-HE IS RISEN

(ILWS MOSEEM & XPIAN MISSINARY ABOUT TOMES)

VS 1-THINK IMPACT UPON TH/LIYS THEZ WOMN

HAY W EVR WATCHD THRU TH/ERLY MORN HRS & AWAIT ARIVL OF DAWN???

(ILWS STAND GARD KOREA -TH/LAND OF TH/MORNING CALM)

THEZ WOMN LITRLY/FIGURATIVLY SAW DAWN OF NW DAY

VSS 2-4-THINK IMPACT ON THEM,TH/SHOK,AMAZMENT

ANY FEARS THEY HAD WER QUICKLY PUT PREST BY ANGLS WORDS

VSS 5-7-THINK OF THIS TERIFIC NEWS THEY WER HEARING

NOW WUD IT AFFECT W?? JOY, WNSPKABL JOY

VS 8-I LIK HOW MT SAYS IT-"DEPARTED QUICKLY"

HE SAYS IT CORECTLY AT END OF VERSA#AND DID RUN"

BUT WHAT HAPPN AS GO PTEL DISCIPS???

VS 9-TH/DAY NOW DAWNED THAT MUCH BRITR 4THEM

THEY CAM 2TOMB W/SADNES/DESPAIR & NOW GLWM TRVN 2JOY

(ILWS MINISTER WHO "LITES UP TH/BURIAL SERVICE")

THIS IS WAT EASTER STORY SHUD DO 4EACH OF US

IT IS A DAY OF JOY OF NW BIRTH,OF HAY TREASVR WORL WANDTUDPLICAT

(ILWS OLD SOFA & TH/UNKNOWN VALUE OF IT)

THIS WAS JS

AN OLD/WORTHLES JEWISH TEACHER BIN DISPOD OF

HE WAS PUT 2DETH,BURIED & OUT OF HARM'S WAY

TH/RELIG LDERS & OTHERS WANT HIM OUT OF WAY BREATH SIGH RELIEF

THIS BLASHEMR WAS GON,& DISCIPS/FOLLOWRS HAD DISAPEARD

TALK OF NW ORDR,BILD TEMPL 3DAYS ETC WAS JWS TALK,TALK,TALK

LD# DED,& HIS TALK JWS BUNCH DREAMS/MEMRIES IN TH/FAST

T FEL SIGNIF OF ALL THIS IS THAT JS RESVR MENT POSIBL THAT

HER IS A RESURECTIN & LIF BYON THIS ONE

4ALL BLIEVRS THIS SHUDE SORC JOY & THANKSGIV

IT SHUD PT US 2WAT AWAIT US AT CLOS THIS LIF

(ILWS MISSIONARY,FAMILT IN PORTUGAL & "ALL SAFELY HOME")

WAT A CAWS 4CELEBRATIN

JS MADE POSIB 2CROS FR/DARKNES 2DAWN

FR/DETH 2LIF, FR/OLD 2NEW

SO SHUDE "HAPPY NEW YEAR" THIS EASTER & EVRY EASTER

JS XP IS RISEN 2DAY, ALLELUIA & AMEN!!!

(Illust. of Minister Jowett)

This Easter should do for all us.
Should create new, glorious dawning.

Who God perform miracle of resur, beg. of NEW Year
for many

New Year for all in Christ
Day new life, new birth

(Illus. janitor & sofa)

Thus was with Jesus.
Olf worthless Jewish teacher disposed of
Body laid tomb for intents & purposes dead as any
People wanted minis. end, breath sigh relief
Relig. leaders elated, blasphemers gone
Disciples & followers gone, disappeared,
hopes of new order gone, dashed pieces
talk of tearing temple down, just talk
leader as fallible as they
Now dead buried, ministry just dreams & memories

But Jesus predicted this
stone rejected now head of corner.
Old worthless body gone, but replaced with new
glorious Risen SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

Fall signif. of Easter, JESUS Conquered DEATH &
grave, and thru Him have eternal life.

Should be for each Xpian cause of JOY, celebration,
thanksgiving.

Something can anticipate at close earthly life.

(Illust. Safely home)

Wait a cause for celebration.

Jesus made possible for man to cross darkness to
Dawn.
from death to life,
from old to new.

Happy New Year this Easter and every Easter.

Happy New Year all of you.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY, ALLELUIA AND AMEN.

"Happy New Year!"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Text: Matthew 28:1a,

"Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first
day of the week,"

Today Easter Sunday.

H.V. MINTON - IN HIS STEPS

(Illustration Church of Holy Sepulchre)

This resembles very much our custom New Years EVE.

Today is day of new beg. let me be first to wish

Happy New Year.

Day we all awaited, day looked forward since

Ash Wed.

Culmination of blood, sweat, tears of Jesus.

Today He has arisen, no longer captive in tomb

ALIVE.

(Illustration Mosam & Xpian.)

Think of impact this resur. made on followers.

Read in scripture, (text)

Have ever watched thru early morn, hours, await dawn?

Korea, and Land of Morning Calm.

Blackness of night give way beautiful light of dawn.

More breathtaking than could describe.

This took place for these women.

Early hours for women, moments of grief, sorrow.

Could ease sorrow by coming tomb.

Matt says, came to see sepulchre.

We can well imagine utter amaze, at earthq, stone
rolled, & angel.

not prepared for this surprise.

Shock of empty tomb, & angel telling no fear,

but fear normal.

fear Jesus stolen, carried elsewhere.

But JOY over news HE ALIVE, FOREVERMORE

This made day dawn brighter.

Once darkness, despair, gloom, sadness, grief,

now lightness, brightness nothing could match

Now could leave empty tomb & tell discip & others

But met by Jesus Himself. Here was proof.

PR 121
Sermon #2
December 11, 1973
Ralph C. Link

"Happy New Year!"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Text: Matthew 28:1a, "Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week," R.S.V.

Today is Easter Sunday. Yesterday, all day, and all night people were gathering in the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. They have been doing this for over nine centuries. These people have been taking part in what is called the "Ceremony of the Holy Fire." H. V. Morton tells of this in his book entitled "In His Steps." Hundreds of people sleep in the church. Thousands more wait outside all night for the supreme moment of the morning to come when the fire shall appear. They push and shove for places that will place them in a position to get their candles touched by the holy fire. The police are called in to preserve order, but to little or no avail.

On each side of the tomb are round openings rimmed with stone, blackened by the fire of other years. Runners stand around holding bunches of candles. The Greek and Armenian patriarchs take their places at the openings, each with a torch. Suddenly in the darkness a burst of flame appears and the torches are ablaze. There is a mad rush of shrieking candle holders as they push forward to light their candles. All pandemonium breaks loose. Out of the tomb they rush with the lit candles, and into their vehicles to drive to their churches and to place the candles in those churches. The church bells peal out their joyous notes on the early morning dawn air, while added to this is the strange noise of wooden gongs that are beaten with strips of metal.

This resembles very much our custom of watching and awaiting the

the arrival of the New Year. Each December 31st thousands of people sit in front of their TV sets viewing Guy Lombardo and his orchestra playing dance music, while people dance and await the New Year. Quite frequently, the scene changes and shows the time remaining until midnight. At a few minutes to midnight the scene in Times Square New York City is shown and at exactly midnight the ball drops to the bottom of the tower and all pandemonium breaks loose with people shouting, and whistling, screaming, embracing, and wishing one another a Happy New Year, to the accompaniment of horns and noise makers.

Well, today is a day of new beginnings and so let me be the first to wish all of you a Happy New Year. This is the day we have all awaited. This is the day to which we have looked ever since Ash Wednesday marked the start of Lent. This is the culmination of the blood, and sweat, and tears of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Today, He has arisen. He is no longer held captive in the tomb, but is alive.

A Moslem once remarked to a Christian missionary, "We have proof of the death of our prophet. When we go to Arabia we can find his tomb and thus show that he really lived. When you go to Jerusalem you cannot prove that he lived for you have no tomb." "True," replied the missionary, "We have no tomb in our religion because we have no corpse. Our Gospel ends not in a corpse, but in a conqueror."

Think of the impact this resurrection made upon the followers of Jesus. We read in our scripture how Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb, "after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week." Have you ever watched through the early morning hours and awaited the arrival of dawn? While I was in Korea very appropriately named "The Land of the Morning Calm," I stood guard many nights at the front lines, and watched the blackness of night give way to the beautiful light of dawn. To watch the sky slowly and gradually become light, and to see the first light of day is more breathtaking than I could ever possibly describe. This is literally what took place for these

two women. They saw the dawning of a new day, literally and figuratively. The early morning hours were for these women, moments of grief and sorrow. But they were hours in which they could at least strive to ease their grief, by going to the tomb and seeing where their beloved was entombed. Matthew tells us they went to see the sepulchre. We can well imagine their utter amazement at the events that took place, what with the earthquake and the stone being rolled away, and the angel to greet them. But it becomes all but impossible to imagine the surprise they must have felt when they first viewed the empty tomb. They certainly were not prepared for this shock. So it isn't too hard to understand why the angel told them not to be afraid, for fear was probably the first thing they experienced. A fear that the body of their beloved Jesus had been stolen, or carried elsewhere. But just imagine their joy as they are told the glorious news that He has arisen is now alive, forevermore.

This made that day dawn just that much brighter for them. What was once darkness, sadness, grief and despair, had now turned to a lightness and brightness that nothing could ever match. What made it all the more bright was for them to leave the empty tomb to tell the disciples of their discovery and to be met by none other than Jesus Himself. This not only made it believable, but here was the proof.

A minister named John Henry Jowett once told of a fellow minister when he said, "I know a man who always lights up the burial service by the wonderful way in which he reads the resurrection chapter in Paul's letter to the Corinthians. While he reads you can see and feel the morning dawning, even though you are in the house of the dead."

This is what the Easter story should do for all of us. It should create the new and glorious dawning. When God performed the miracle of resurrection, it was the beginning of a New Year for many. It is a New Year for all those who are in Christ. It is a day of

new life, of new birth.

A janitor was cleaning a church basement. He had hauled away load after load of old paint cans, and boxes, stones, scrap lumber and rubbish. He would have hauled out the old sofa that he found there, but it was too bulky and heavy to handle alone. So he pulled it over against one wall, and piled bags of leftover plaster, cement and sand on it. One day one of the ladies of the church came to the church and went to the basement to get something. She noticed that the basement was now nice and clean and during her inspection, she saw the old sofa sitting against the wall. She inquired of the janitor as to the ownership of it. He told her as far as he knew it belonged to the church. She replied that she would like to buy it. Scornfully he asked, "Yea, and just how much will you give for that old piece of junk?" She answered, "I'll give \$400 for it, because it just happens to be a French Chippendale." The janitor uncertain as to what he should do, told her he would check into it. He went to the pastor and told him. A furniture dealer was called in and after examining the sofa, told them it was worth some money. An auction was held and the sofa was sold for \$1000.

Thus it was with Jesus. The old worthless Jewish teacher had been disposed of. His body was laid in the tomb and for all intents and purposes he was just as dead as anyone else. The people who had wanted his ministry ended could now breathe a sigh of relief. The religious leaders were probably elated, because now this blasphemer was gone. His followers and disciples had all disappeared. Their hopes of being a part of the new order were dashed to pieces. All of that talk about tearing down the temple and rebuilding it in three days, had been just that, talk. Their leader had proven to be just as fallible as they. He was now dead and buried and his ministry was just a bunch of dreams and memories in the past.

But what no one considered was the fact that Jesus himself had predicted this. He had foretold that the stone which the builders would reject, would become the head of the corner. That old worthless body was gone, and it had been replaced with the new and glorious risen Saviour Jesus Christ.

The full significance of Easter is that Jesus conquered death and the grave and through Him we may have eternal life; it should be

for each Christian a cause for joy and thanksgiving now, and something which we can anticipate at the close of this earthly life.

During World War II things became so bad in many areas that many times people were evacuated for their own safety. In Portugal a missionary was advised to send his family back to England for their safety. So one morning he saw his wife and his eight children, as well as his sister and her three children loaded aboard an ocean liner, bound for England. He remained behind. On the Sunday following their departure he stood before his congregation and announced, "I've just received word that all my family have arrived safely home." He then led the service of worship. It was only after the service was over that the full meaning of the words became known to his people. He had received a telegram just before the start of the service, informing him that a submarine had torpedoed the ship and everyone on board had died. But he knew that all of his family were believers, and they had reached home safely. And although overcome with grief at the loss, he was able to continue through the grace of God, knowing that his loved ones were enjoying eternity, through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What a cause for celebration. Jesus made it possible for man to cross from darkness to dawn; from death to life; from the old to the new. It should be "HAPPY NEW YEAR" this Easter and every Easter. "Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia" and Amen.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER APRIL 21, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLING, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

SILENT PRAYER
*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 80 "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"
*SCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
*EXHORTATION

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 20: 19-29

HYMN No. 239 "ASK YE WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (STATEMENT OF FAITH)

*GLOBIA PATR

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "SPRING FLOWERS"

DUTE: "FRIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND" DORSEY DUTCH & HOWDY
BOLAM

SERMON: "WITHOUT A DOUBT!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 243 "MAKE ME A CAPTIVE, LORD"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" HEYSER

-----*CONGREGATION STANDING-----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. GEORGE PFLUGH IN MEMORY OF THEIR DAUGHTER PAMELA.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DON KINGSLEY, DARYL

TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY PENAR.

MR. & MRS. RALPH KILLEAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. PEG COVERT AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

LAST SUNDAY WE HAD A TOTAL OF 381.

HOSPITALIZED: GEORGE EICHHORN - ALLEGHENY GEN. HOSP. 1027

TUESDAY - 7:30 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. - *CHAVEZ*
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS - WORK NIGHT AT THE *WED.*
APARTMENT 110 WALKER AVE. THERE IS A LOT OF PAINT-

ING TO BE DONE - WE NEED YOUR HELP - MEN AND WOMEN.
SATURDAY - 8-9 - YOUTH SWIM PARTY - YMCA. REFRESH-

MENTS WILL BE AT THE DON KENNEDY RESIDENCE. THE YOUTH CAN BE PICKED UP AT APPROXIMATELY 10:30.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WILL BE OBSERVED - APRIL 30 -
TUESDAY IN OUR CHURCH.

MR. & MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MEMBERS FOR CARDS, PRAYERS, VISITS, AND FOR REV. LINK'S VISITS AND PRAYERS. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR COOKIES AND JELLY BEANS. ---FROM THE CUSTEAD WITH LOVE---

A LIFE THAT IS FULL IS A LIFE THAT IS CHANGED.
THOSE WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE RISEN CHRIST LEAD LIVES
THAT ARE EMPTY. THEY LACK THE POWER OF GOD'S SPIRIT,
THE JOY OF HIS PRESENCE.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THEREFORE, IS NOT A
MERE HISTORICAL RECORD. IT IS THE VERY DYNAMIC OF GOD,
THE POWER THAT TRANSFORMS OUR LIFE, THAT MAKES IT CONFORM
MORE CLOSELY TO HIS. EASTER MEANS THAT WE NOW HAVE
LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS. AID ASSOC.

Sunday, April 5, 1970

Mr. Ralph Link, Lay Minister

Prelude

Lighting the Candles of Worship

*Hymn No. 80

*Invocation and Choral Introit

*Prayer of Confession - Our Heavenly Father, who by Your love made me, and through Your love have kept me, and in Your love would make me perfect, I humbly confess that I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and that I have not loved my neighbor as Christ loved me. Your life is within my soul but my selfishness has hindered You. I have not lived by faith. I have resisted Your spirit. I have neglected Your inspirations. Forgive what I have been; help me to amend what I am; and in Your Spirit direct what I should be; that You may come into the full glory of Your creation, in me and in all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading Sel. 34, Page 584

Hymn No. 239

The Scripture Lesson - John 20:19-29

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Offertory

*Doxology and Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

The Anthem "Scatter Sunshine" The Junior Choir

The Sermon "Without a Doubt"

*Hymn No. 176

*Benediction and Choral Response

*Postlude

*Indicates that we stand

Greeters

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Beck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon at 2:00 - Consistory Meeting

Wednesday evening at 6:30 - Junior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 7:15 - Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 8:00 - Double G Class Meeting

Thursday evening at 8:00 - Washington Township

Committee will meet in the home of Mrs. Wilmer Leinell.

Friday, April 10 - The Vacation Bible School workshop will be held with two sessions at 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. All staff members and teachers are asked to contact Faye Cox about attending.

Sunday, April 12 - If present schedules are maintained, Rev. Kettering will be in our pulpit for his first sermon as minister at First Church.

Mrs. Curt (Bessie) Hill wishes to thank everyone for cards, flowers and prayers extended on her behalf. Bessie is recuperating at home. Gary Lukehart continues to make progress and is still a hospital patient. Dora DeVilling underwent surgery last Monday in Citizens Hospital and is recovering nicely. John Dowley, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dowley, was able to spend Easter at home after having been hospitalized.

The rosebuds on the altar announce the arrival of two baby girls, the one born to Mr. and Mrs. Preston (Linda Barker) Smith, and the other, Judith Lynn, born to S/Sgt. and Mrs. William Frampton.

The Double G Class will hold a cooking demonstration at the West Penn Power Building in Washington Township on April 21 at 7:30 p.m. Donations are fifty cents per person and tickets may be obtained from class members.

Just so happen Thos carp by trade
 While Abbanes in mkt place, Js came up said,
 "Wouldst thou buy a carpenter?"
 Abbanes say, "Yes."
 Js say; "I have slave that carp, I desire sell."
 At this he point Thos in distance.
 They agree price & Thos sold
 agreement read; "I Js, son of Jos carp, acknowledge
 I have sold my slave Thos by name unto thee Abbanes
 a merchant of Gundaphorus, king of the Indians."
 After deed drawn up, Js take Thos to Abbanes Thos.
 Abbanes ask Thos, "Is this your master?"
 Thos reply, "Indeed he is."
 Abbanes tell him, "I have bot you from him."
 Thos no reply.
 But in morn he rise early, pray
 after prayer he say Js, "I will go whither thou
 wilt Lord Js; thy will be done."
 Story then go on tell How Gundaphorus command Thos
 bild palace & Thos told him he can do
 King gave Thos all money needed by materials, &
 hire workmen.
 But Thos give all away to poor
 He keep telling king, "Palace rising steadily."
 But king grow suspicious.
 finally sends Thos, asks, "Hast thou bilt me palac
 Thos answer, "Yes."
 When shall we go see, asks king?
 Thos answers; "Thou canst not see it now, but when
 thou departest this life, then thou shalt see it."
 King angry, Thos life endangered,
 but finally king won over xpianity, this how Thos
 brought xpianity to India.
 two things stand out life Thos
 1st, he actually refuse believe that which cannot
 see. Would not trust, in this respect absolutely
 honest.
 Thos not kind man blindly tell of faith & no belie
 Tennyson wrote; "There lives more faith in honest
 doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds."
 (Illustration Baptist Fish)
 This true all denom.
 Easter, Xmas good examp this
 full church, many come, & no idea what they belie
 Oh, have some vague notion Js,
 but ends there.

"Without A Doubt!"

Text: John 20:24-29

In world & nation make use word doubt often
 In merchandizing, whether car, washer, appliance
 anything else, without doubt, best on market
 Jury told "if resonable doubt, then acquit"
 People show doubt in belief of all kinds
 Thomas in Scripture could very well say, "I doubt
 certainly very sceptical
 we call doubting Thomas,
 this respect we show feelings toward doubters
 Thomas may been doubter, or sceptic, but very loyal
 Loved Js, disc.
 reason thot not with other discs, grief stricken
 no want others see this
 since loved Js so much, made statement, would no
 believe until he saw for self
 When saw, made complete acceptance, "My Lord,
 and My God."
 Latter life Thos not really known.
 book supposedly life of Thos called, "Acts Of Thos
 Only legendary story,
 but true to character as far as Thos concerned
 Story like this:
 After death Js, discs divide up world among them
 Each took section known world preach spred Gospel
 India fell Thos by lot.
 Some truth here, cause Thomist church South India,
 trace origin Thos
 At 1st Thos refuse go, said,
 "I am an Hebrew man; how can I go among the indians
 and preach the truth?"
 Js appeared nite, said; "Thos, fear not, go thou int
 India & preach the word there for my grace is with
 thee."
 But Thos stubbornly refuse, said;
 "Master, whither thou sendest me I will go, send me
 but send me elsewhere, for unto the Indians I will
 not go."
 Just so happened certain merchant came from India
 o Jerusalem.
 His name Abbanes
 Was sent by King Gundaphorus find skilled carp
 bring back India

So easy stand before cong, say few I Do's, 3/
& then you a Xpian
almost as easy as getting married.
We have mixed up Churchianity for Christianity.
We been reaping benfits for many yrs, with empty
pews & half committed peop
ve long list peop on roles, but not there cause
no commitment to Js Christ.
Relig not taken seriously
We should have Thos doubt.
we should question all of relig from Apost creed^{om}
We should question about Bible.
So easy say, "Well, I accept B. as inspired
word of God," but what does that mean to you?
But should find out what we believe,
find out who wrote, when how written, what about
(Illustration Bible for present) ^{et}
We may never receive a gift copy compliments of
author, but we should know His word.
Nother point Thos, way he made up mind.
Once sure, he went all way.
He say Js, "My Lord, and My God."
nothing ½ here.
He go all way
This we need today, more dedicated men & women.
More peop on fire for Lord,
& not just in pulpits either
Too many lukewarm xpians
Only time many give Allegiance God, when need help
Many only need help, hatched, matched, dispatched
Bapt, marry, bury.
Too many only need church when problems or trouble
To have doubts human
we all have them.
I know sceptic asks show me risen Lord?
Cannot actually prove this, nor more prove air
We know air all round us, cannot see it, but there
So impossible prove resurrection Js.
We must accept as Thos, "My Lord & My God."
Js summed up to Thos, "You believe because you can
see me. Happy are those who have not seen & yet
believe."
We no see as Thos, yet we profess belief.
We should show acceptance Withou A Doubt, & live it

Without A Doubt

Text: John 20; 24-29

In the world today and in our nation we make use of the word doubt quite often. In merchandising we say, "This product, whether it be a car appliance or anything else, is without a doubt the best on the market." In jury trials, the jury is often instructed that if they have a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of an individual, then it is their duty to acquit him. People often use the phrase, "I'm from Missouri, you'll have to show me," when they are sceptical about something. Well the man in our Scripture this morning could very well have uttered this phrase, because he was certainly very sceptical. And don't we often refer to a person sometimes as a, "Doubting Thomas?" In this respect we show what our feelings are toward a doubter.

Thomas may have been a doubter, or a pessimist as we would call him, but he was also a loyal disciple. He loved Jesus and it is thought that the reason why he was not with the other disciples, was due to the fact that he did not want anyone to see how grief stricken he was over the death of Jesus, so he went into seclusion. And since he loved Jesus so much he made the statement that he would not believe it was Jesus unless he actually saw the nail prints and touched them and saw the wound in Jesus side. And when he was convinced that it really was Jesus he made the complete acceptance of his Saviour by stating, "My Lord and my God."

The later life of Thomas is not really known. But there is a book that is supposedly the history of Thomas. It is called, "The Acts of Thomas." It is only a legendary story, but it certainly is true to character as far as Thomas is concerned. ~~After the death of Jesus~~ The story goes like this, "After the death of Jesus, the disciples divided the world up among them. That is they each took a certain section of the known world to preach in and to spread the Gospel. India fell to Thomas by lot. There is some truth here since the Thomist Church South India can trace its origin to Thomas. At first Thomas refused to go. He used the excuse that he was not strong enough for the journey. He said, "I am an Hebrew man; how can I go among the Indians and preach the truth?" But Jesus appeared to him at night and said, "Fear not Thomas, go thou into India and preach

the word there, for my grace is with thee." But Thomas very stubbornly refused. He said to Jesus, "Whither thou wouldst send me, send me, but elsewhere for unto the Indians I will not go."

Now it just so happened that a certain merchant came from India to Jerusalem. He was named Abbanes. He had been sent by King Gundaphorus to find a skilled carpenter and to bring him back to India. And it just so happened that Thomas was a carpenter by trade. While Abbanes was in the market place, Jesus came up to him and said, "Wouldest thou buy a carpenter?" Abbanes replied, "Yes." Then Jesus said, "I have a slave that is a carpenter, and I desire to sell him," at this He pointed to Thomas in the distance. So they agreed on a price and Thomas was sold. The agreement they had between them read, "I, Jesus, the son of Joseph the carpenter, acknowledge that I have sold my slave Thomas by name unto thee Abbanes, a merchant of Gundaphorus, king of the Indians." After the deed was drawn up Jesus found Thomas and took him to Abbanes. Abbanes asked Thomas, "Is this your master?" And Thomas replied, "Indeed he is." Abbanes told him, "I have bought thee from him." Thomas said nothing. But in the morning he rose early and prayed. After his prayer he said to Jesus, "I will go whither thou wilt Lord Jesus; thy will be done."

The story then goes on to tell how Gundaphorus commanded Thomas to build a palace and Thomas told him that he was able to do so. The king gave Thomas all the money that he needed to buy the materials and hire the workmen. But Thomas gave it all away to the poor. He would keep telling the king that the palace was rising steadily. But the king grew suspicious. Finally he sent for Thomas. And he asked, "Hast thou built me the palace." And Thomas answered, "Yes." When then shall we go and see it," asked the king? Thomas replied, "Thou canst not see it now, but when thou departest this life, then thou shalt see it." At first the king was very angry and Thomas was in danger of his life. But finally the king was won over to Christianity and this is how Thomas brought Christianity to India.

There are two things that stand out in the life of Thomas. The first thing is the fact that he absolutely refused to say that he believed, when indeed he did not. In this respect he was absolutely honest. Thomas had to be sure.

Thomas was not the kind of man who would blindly tell of his faith and not believe in it. Tennyson wrote, "There lives more faith in honest doubt, Believe me, than in half the creeds."

There is a story told of a Baptist minister who was strolling along the sea walk during a convention of his members in Charleston. He happened to meet an old colored man fishing. For a long time he watched the man sit very patiently waiting for a bite. Finally he got a bite and hooked the fish and pulled him in. It was an odd looking fish and the minister asked what kind it was. The man replied that it was called a Baptist fish. "A Baptist fish the minister asked," rather sceptically. "Sure," said the man, "They call them that because they spoil so fast after they are taken out of the water." Now this is true of all denominations. ^{EASTER EX. FULL CHURCHES} Many people come into them, but they have no ~~idea~~ ^{IN} idea ~~in~~ what ~~believe~~. ^{EX. OF HIM} it is they believe. Oh, they have a vague notion about Jesus, but that's about where it ends. It is so easy to stand before the rest of the congregation, and say a few, "I do's" and then you are a Christian. It's almost as easy as getting married. I think that in many respects the churches that require a period of classes for prospective members have a good idea. I think that because we have made Christianity so easily obtained, we are reaping it with the empty Churches and a long list of people on the roles who should be there. ^{BUT AREN'T} Religion is not taken as seriously as it should be. We should have a certain amount of Thomas's doubt. This questioning should involve all facets of our religion from the meaning of the Apostles Creed to the structure of the Bible. It is so easy to repeat the Creed and never really know what it means. And it is so easy to say, "Well, I accept the Bible as the inspired word of God." And let it go at that. But what we should do is to try to find out just what it is that the Creed means. And we should dig into the Bible to see who wrote it and how it was written and the ^{8 WHAT IT SAYS TO ME IN MY LIFE} circumstances under which it was written. ^{ANOTHER ABOUT} This would help not only to make more dedicated Christians, but people who were well versed in their religion and who could take it seriously enough to be a real active Christian.

The second point of Thomas, was the fact that once he made up his mind, or when he was sure, he went all the way. He answered Jesus, "My Lord and

my God." He was sure and with this surety he was willing to go all the way. He did not stop half way and just say, "My Lord." No he had to give all of the title to Jesus. This is another thing we need in our religion today. More dedicated men and women. And I don't ^{just} mean ^{just} behind the pulpit either. Too many of our church people are luke warm Christians. The only time they really give the allegiance to their Saviour is when they are in need of help. A minister friend of mine once told me that the people who demand the most as far as religious services are concerned, are the ones who never darken the doorway of the church. But just let one of their loved ones die or become ill, and they expect the minister to be right on the job at their beck and call. To be halfway in our religion is ~~is~~ almost as bad as having no religion at all. We need to live it as well as confess it.

To have doubts as Thomas did is human. All of us have them from time to time. But when it comes to our Christianity we can have no doubts. Oh, I know that the sceptical ask for proof of Jesus as the Risen Lord. But to try to prove this is almost as difficult as trying to prove that there is such a thing as air. We know that it is all around us, but we can't see it. But does this mean it does not exist? Of course not, so it is just as impossible to prove the Resurrection of Jesus. We must accept it by faith. We must accept Him as our Lord And our God, ^{As,} by faith ~~also~~. This is perhaps a difficult thing for some Christians to do, especially if they are of a doubting nature. But Jesus summed it up when He said to Thomas, "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." We have not seen Jesus as the disciples and Thomas did, and yet we profess to believe. We have accepted Jesus as our Lord and our God, and so we should show this acceptance by not being doubtful about our Christianity. We should ~~live without any doubts~~ live the Christian life, and believe in our Saviour without any doubts at all. Then when we profess our faith, we can truly say, "I believe in Jesus Christ without a doubt." Let us pray.

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord:
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is
cc 1y ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST for the upright.

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER APRIL 28, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BILL WATTERSON, STEVE BASEHORE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "ANDANTE PASTORALE, IN A" SPENCE
"PRELUDE SERIEUSE" STRICKLAND

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 177 "SING WITH ALL THE SONS OF GLORY"

*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US
WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED
AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DIS-
OBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS
AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT
WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH
JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PRADON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3: 7-21

HYMN No. 254 "JESUS, I LIVE TO THEE"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "ADAGIO CANTABILE" BEETHOVEN

ANTHEM: "I WALKED INTO THE GARDEN" BY WEAVER

SERMON: "OLD BEDSTEADS, ANYONE?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 469 "I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "MAESTOSO"

MARTIN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED
BY MR. & MRS. CUSTEAD IN MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. JOHN
REINHOLD - "PARENTS". (MR. & MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD)
THOSE SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND GOVERT,
ROBBIE VINROE, BRIAN PFABE, ROBERT DELLEN, CHRIS
PFABE.

ELDER ARTHUR SNYDER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE
DOOR TODAY.

MRS. LINDA McMILLIN, JANE AND ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG
WILL BE IN THE NURSERY TODAY.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. GEORGE EICHORN, ALLEGHENY GEN.
HOSP. - PITTS.; HAROLD CAMPBELL, MRS. MATTHEW
DICKSON (HELEN) - BCMH.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. & MRS. ROLAND THOMPSON - NEW
GRANDSON - BOY BORN TO MR. & MRS. CLYDE CURRY - BCMH.
REMEMBER MAY 8 - MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TUREEN DINNER -
6:00 - THE CIRCLE SQUARES (MARY MARTHA CIR.) ARE IN
CHARGE OF THE PROGRAM AND WILL ENTERTAIN US WITH
THEIR FAMOUS SUPRISE TALENT. MAKE A DATE NOW WITH
YOUR MOTHER, DAUGHTER, NIECE OR JUST A FRIEND. MEAT
AND DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED - YOU WILL
NEED A TUREEN AND TABLE SERVICE.

TUESDAY - 7:30 - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN OUR CHURCH.
DAY DECLARED BY THE CONGRESS IN WHICH THEY ARE ASKING
FOR A DAY OF HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER AND TO
TURN TO GOD AND ASK HIS GUIDANCE AND HELP IN OUR
COUNTRY.

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

THURS. - THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE
HAVE ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 225

THE CONFIRMATION PICTURES ARE IN THE OFFICE - THEY
ARE BEAUTIFUL - SEE BEA IN THE OFFICE - \$4.00 EACH.

TUES. & THURS. - WORK NIGHT IN THE APARTMENT AT 110
WALKER AVE.

MAY 5 - LAKE ERIE ASSOCIATION MEETING - LOIS WOGAN
AND ANN WILLIAMS - DELEGATES - ST. MARKS - NEW HAMBURG.

2/

Is what Paul getting at.
He says we must leave all worthless monuments we
tend build, behind
(must point selves, others Almighty God, thru
showing them Js Xp.

Hpw many us so concerned things-objects =bedstead

This in essence what Paul trying tell peop Philippi
He say- vs 17

reminded house worked in several yrs ago.
Couple live house, no children
adopted every stray cat, dog, hurt, crippled etc.
even went out town pick up
she said spent 40-50 dollars month med.-animals.

About 18 yr ago took in home foster baby boy
he afflicted cerebral palsy
gave boy, all love & concern

Be now 18 only about this big, (2 feet)

Boybrequires all time & efforts, both hus. & wife

Here 2 cases same amt money spent med.

Why normal healthy peop take 24 hr. 7day wk job

New York classic examp too many animals, peop no concern other humans.

Text: Deut. 3:11, "For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

Much ado made over size peop & things, present world
Sports, biggest, heaviest linemen for football
Basketball, looks fellows over 6 ft
Business, industry, trying make, package lge
economy sizes

group known as Rephaim

Bedstead referred to considered be burial sarcophagus
Made like bedstead.
cubit 18 in. length 13 1/2 ft, width 6 ft
can see large man

We looking back ancient history,
even back there, inclination strive vast kingdoms,
pires, wealth, amass fortunes
g reached hts in power-riches
Yet overthrown by Isites, & now they turn be
figurative giants of world

Someone answer, "He left everything."
Yes, everything left behind at passing of every life
& sometimes only thing mark passing, old iron bed

Paul stating, nothing more worthwhile in world
than serve Master Js Xp, all else nothing

In the book James we read,

3/

"If a brother or sister is illclad & in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be wrmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

It is more important to care for the afflicted humans all around us.

But u see, we all involved bilding monuments some Diff peop place diff priority on what import kind We all prob have some old iron bedstead our life should getvrid of.

Paul also says vss 18-21

Paul reiterating, we should be living for heavenly home,

forget living to selves here on earth

What will u & I leave behind?

Will merely be old iron bedsteads for anyone us?

Someone once said, "One life twill soon be past, & only that done for Js Xp will last."

"Old Bedsteads, Anyone?," or will it be that goal we press on toward, for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus?

"Old Bedsteads, Anyone?"

Text: Deut. 3:11, "For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

Philippians 3:14, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Much ado is made over the size of people and things in our present day world. For instance, in sports, the biggest and heaviest line-men are sought for football teams. In basketball, the teams are looking for the fellows who are well over six feet. In business and industry everyone is trying to make and package things in large economy sizes.

Well in the Bible there is a story of a man who was the last in a long line of giants of a certain tribe. This group was known as the Rephaim, and the story is found in Deuteronomy 3: Moses is telling this story and we read, (read 3:1-11)

"For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim; behold, his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit."

The bedstead referred to in this scripture was considered by most authorities to be not a bedstead as we know it, but instead a burial sarcophagus. Using the rule of thumb that a cubit was 18 inches in length, this sarcophagus would have been 13½ feet long and 6 feet wide. Thus we can see that it would have been made for a large man.

From this story we can determine that only Og remained of a tribe of giants and he was also destroyed, and the only thing left was his iron bedstead. We are looking back over ancient history, and even way back then, the inclination was to strive for vast kingdoms and empires, for wealth and to amass fortunes. Og had reached the heights in power and riches. Yet, he was overthrown by the Israelites and it was now their turn to be the figurative giants of that part of the world.

A prominent ~~xxxxx~~ wealthy man died not too long ago and someone in striving to determine just how much money he had remarked, "How much did he leave." Someone else answered the question by saying, "He left everything." Yes, ~~sometimesxxxxxxx~~ everything is left at the end of every life, and sometimes the only thing left to mark the passing of someone is only an old iron bedstead.

Contrast the life of Og with the life Paul tells about in our scripture where he states, "For Jesus' sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him." Paul is stating that there is nothing more worthwhile in the world than serving the master Jesus Christ. All else is nothing compared to this.

He goes on to say, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call ~~and~~ of God in Christ Jesus," and he urges others of the same mind to do likewise.

Daniel Webster made the statement, "If we work upon marble it will perish, If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon men' immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellowmen, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

This is what Paul was getting at. He was saying that we should leave behind us all of those worthless monuments we tend to build to ~~xxxxxx~~ ourselves, and we must point ourselves and others to Almighty God through showing them Jesus Christ. How many people do you know that are all wrapped up in a monument that will left behind? How many of us are so concerned with things and objects that are the equivalent of the old iron bedstead of King Og?

Some years ago a London newspaper offered prizes for the best answers to the question, "Who are the happiest people on earth?"

The following were adjudged the four best answers:

The craftsman or artist whistling over a job well done
A little child building sand castles
A mother, after a busy day, bathing her baby
A doctor who has finished a difficult and dangerous operation, and saved a human life.

Notice there are no playboys, no millionaires, no international jet setters, no kings, no hollywood stars, no people high on drugs or other stimulants. Just plain things that require work and love. This in essence was what Paul was trying to tell these people in Philippi. He said, "Join in imitatin me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us." He was beseeching others to follow him in this type of living. He was telling them that we can look at the lives of others and we can measure their Christianity by their lives.

This past week as I worked in the hospital as the Chaplain of the week, representing the Butler Area Council of Churches, I was reminded of a home in which I worked ~~several years ago~~ some years ago. The couple who lived in this house had no children. But they adopted every stray cat and dog that came around. In fact they even went to distant states to pick up dogs and cats their friends had collected and brought them back to Butler and nursed them back to health. The woman told me they spent between 40 and 50 dollars every month just in medicine for these animals.

On Thursday I called on a woman who did not belong to a church and who was very upset because she had to be in the hospital. As I listened to her story it soon became evident why she was upset. The story is that about 18 years ago she and her husband took into their home a baby boy as a foster child. The boy was ~~suffering~~ afflicted with cerebral palsy. ~~After several years~~ They gave this boy all of their love and their concern. After a certain length of time, the real mother of the boy decided she wanted to place in an institution, and wanted to sever all ties with him. The woman and her husband checked into adopting the boy, and in the process were told that if the boy were placed in an institution, he would ~~live~~ in all probability die within six months. The reason being that he had grown to love them in

his own special way. They had given him care and concern that he had never had before. Eventually they were able to adopt the boy and the mother was glad to be rid of him. She told me the boy is now 18 and he is only about this big, (about 2 feet). She said he knows them and responds to them and is able to say hello. But the boy requires all of her time and efforts as well as much of her husband's time. This is why she was so upset that she had to be in the hospital with a broken back, and was so anxious to get home. But the real clincher was when she told me that she spent between 40 and 50 dollars ^{a month} in medicines for this boy.

Here are two cases in which the same amount of money was being spent for medicines. One was for animals, the other for humans. ~~WHICHXWHICHX~~
~~arexthexpeople~~ Why would a person who has no children otherwise, tie herself down to a 7 day a week, 24 hour a day job of raising someone else's afflicted child? when this was not something she had to do? Why on the other hand would a person lavish so much love on animals, many of which it would have been more humane to destroy, and neglect to ~~showxthat~~ use that money and time in helping some other human? I love animals, but I believe it is more important to care for the afflicted humans of the world than for the animals.

~~one woman was working to leave behind a~~

But you see we all are involved in building a monument of some kind. Different people place different priorities on what is really important to them. We all probably have some old iron bedsteads in our lives that we should rid ourselves of. ~~thenxwaxreadxofxsomefxthexxamplexof~~
~~differentxpeoplewxcannotxhelpxbutxfelixxxxxxxxxxofxjoy~~ Paul also reminds us of this when he says, "Many of whom I told you and now tell you even with tears, live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on ^{earthly} things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself."

Paul is merely reiterating that we should be living for
t^o heavenly home and forget about living to ourselves here on earth.
What will you and I leave behind? Will it merely be old bedsteads for anyone
of us? Someone coined the words, "One life, twill soon be past, and only
that done for Jesus Christ will last." Which will it be, old bedsteads,
or

Someone once penned the words, "One life, twill soon be past,
only that done for Jesus Christ will last." What will you and I leave be-
hind? Will it merely be old bedsteads for anyone of us? Or will it be
that ~~which~~ goal that we presson toward, for the upward call of God in
Christ Jesus?

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FESTIVAL OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME
MOTHER'S DAY May 12, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MRS. CYNTHIA SYBERT, YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR
FAULA STEPHENSON, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "CANATINA" RAFF
"CABALETTA" LACK

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 12 "FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH"

*ACRISPION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "CHRIST, WE ARE GLAD TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR KINGDOM, AND WE JOYFULLY ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE WHICH OUR MEMBERSHIP SETS BEFORE US. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THAT CHALLENGE IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, IN ORDER TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS WITH YOU AND ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST. JOIN US AS WE SEARCH OUR HEARTS AND WILLS, THAT WE MAY KNOW OUR SHORTCOMINGS. SEARCH OUR DESIRES AND AMBITIONS WITH US, THAT WE MAY KNOW IF THEY ARE PURE, SINCERE, AND WORTHY OF FULFILLMENT. ACCEPT OUR HONEST SEARCHING AS OUR CONFESSION IN CHRIST. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR.)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: PROVERBS 31: 10-31

HYMN No. 390 "COME, LET US JOIN WITH FAITHFUL SOULS"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY: "LULLABY"

BRAHMS

ANTHEM: "IN PASTURES GREEN" - YOUTH CHOIR -

SOLO - LLOYD LINK

- BY ALLENE K. BIXBY

SERMON:

"MOTHERS AND OTHERS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 11 "YE SERVANTS OF GOD"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

"ALLEGRO"

BARNES

*CONGREGATION STANDING - - - - -

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. LOUIS ZUBIK IN MEMORY OF THEIR "MOTHERS"

RESSIE ZUBIK AND MABEL JONES.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW,

MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.

MR. & MRS. EARL WOGAN WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT THE

DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. BARBARA VARGO

AND MARY ANN SNOW.

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. JUDY MASSERT -560; MR. HERMAN

LIPPOLD - 377; MRS. MARY YOUNG.

> THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 224.

THE CLOSING HYMN TODAY YE SERVANTS OF GOD IS THE

"NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS' HYMN OF THE MONTH

FOR MAY". TODAY IS THE CLOSE OF NATIONAL MUSIC

WEEK.

WE WISH TO THANK MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON FOR PLAYING

THE PIANO TODAY.

MARIE STAUFFER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION FOR ALL THE CARDS AND VISITORS AND PASTOR LINK'S VISITS AND PRAYERS, WHILE SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

GEORGE EICHORN WANTS TO THANK EVERYBODY WHO SENT HIM CARDS - REMEMBERED HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS AND FOR

THE PASTOR FOR HIS CALLS.

THE FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG

ADVOCATE OF MUSIC IN RELIGION AND THIS YEAR'S THEME:

"MUSIC ENHANCES LIFE" NOT ONLY SUGGESTS THE BEAUTY

AND PLEASURE THAT MUSIC CAN BRING TO ONE'S LIFE, BUT

ALSO REMINDS US OF THE GREAT LOVE OF OUR CREATOR,

FROM WHOM THIS BEAUTIFUL GIFT HAS COME JUST FOR OUR

VERY JOY OF IT. *SEMPER PARVO*

REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE THIS WEEK - 6000.

SCRIP: 1 PETER 3:1-12; SERM: "MOTHERS & OTHERS"

~~(ILUS MICH, FLORIDA, HOLLYWOOD) #1~~

~~(EXPLANATIN MOTHERS DAY/FAMILY WK/ETC) #2~~

BGIN EXAMPLS SHO BRKDN FAMLYS AS V.P. DAN QUAYLE PT OUT US LAFF AT

NOW IT POLIT COREC 2SPK THIS & EVN OCUPANT WHIT HOUS SEZ IT WILB ISSUE IN NOV ELECTIN - BUT WIL IT BRING BOUT CHANG?
MUS WAIT & C

PETER SETS TH/STANDARD FOR TH/HOME IN THIS SCRIP

~~VS 1-4 GUD HOME STARTS W/MARAG~~

~~(ILUS GUD & LETH TO MINSTR) #3~~

3GENRATINS MOTHERS • HOW DO U LIKE THEM??

~~VS 1-6 SUBMISSIN - HOW SOCIETY LKS AT THIS 2DAY~~
PERHAPS THIS WHY HAV THEZ DEFINITINS OF MOTHERS ----
~~(ILUS MOTHERS & MOTHERS DAY) #4~~

~~VS 7-NOTICE - ADVIC APPY/GIVN 2HUSBS & MEN~~

~~VS 8-NOTIC WORD=COMPASSIN & IT MEANS 2B SYMPATHETIC~~
SYMPATHIZ W/OTHERS PROBS
& HOW CAN U B SYMP?? ~~ENLY~~

~~(ILUS MARTHA HAND ON REB, BCUZ HART THER) #5~~

MUS HAV A HART/FEELINGS 4FEELINGS OF OTHERS

~~VS 9-11-THIS GOLDN RULE - DO UNTO OTHERS AS ~~THXX~~ U WUD HAV DO~~
BUT SOCIETY HAS REVERS ALL THIS
IT DO 2THEM B4THEY CAN DO IT TO U

~~(ILUS WOMN BUSNES,BUT MUS BCOM MOTHER 2B COMPLETELY FULFILLD)~~

~~IMMORAL WOMEN BCOM MOTHERS, NO FATHER~~

~~MEN BCOM FATHERS & DESERT WOMEN & CHILDREN~~

~~(ILUS MOTHER & SMER OUTSIDE WORK - KAREN CAVALERI) #6~~

~~VS 12=G WIL BLES WAT U DO THAT IS RT~~
KNOWS UR NEEDS & IF U ENTRUST 2HIM,HE WIL ANSR
THIS DAY 2HONOR MOTHERS,BUT HOW MANY REALY DO??

HOW MANY DO THINGS OUT OF SENS OBLIGATIN BCUZ ADVERT/COMMERC

~~(ILUS MAN,GIRL & ROOB,CEMETARY & GO G MCM IN PERSON) #7~~

CELEBRAT 2BAY W/LUV'D ONES

SPEND TIM 2GETHR,NOT BCUZ U SHAMD INTO IT,BUT BCUZ U WANT TO

LUV ONE ANOTHER

BUT DONT 4GET 2THANK G 4ALL U HAV

SHAR UR LUV W/GOD 4WAT HE HAS DUN 4US

IT'S WORTH A TRY & MAYB TH/START OF CHANG OUR SOCIETY

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGMORE, PA. - MAY 12, 1996

PRELUDE

GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS

*RESPONSIVE READING #14

*HYMN

PRAYER/OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

~~XXXXX~~ PASTORAL PRAYER

~~XXXXX~~ HYMN

SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3:1-12

SERMON: "MOTHERS AND OTHERS"

ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER - 5/12/74

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

*HYMN

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

MARY - RECUP

JODA - RAN/ATTO

SHIRLEY -

HEATHER -

JEAN

These few exams

But U see, home most import inst in world
Isn't ability have children,
(ven woman mental inst. can have baby.

Not import woman can have child. but what kind paren
is she? ~~WOMAN IN FLORIDA - 40-70-100 POUND LIFE REMAINS~~
(Read I Peter 3:1-4 ~~MOTHER ALMOST HATES.~~

P r admonishing women in ~~xxxxxxx~~ I Peter 3:3-4
telling not only be obedient wives, but be examp
for husband.

He saying; "Look, perhaps you married unbeliever,
he may not believe in Christ. If this case
way win him over live as Xpian."

He saying, "Don't be concerned about the outward
appearance of your hair so much, or the wearing of
jewelry, and fancy clothes, it is what is inside
your heart that is of more importance. For this is
the imperishable treasure ~~xxxx~~ of a quiet & gentle
spirit & nature that God loves."

This good advice for us today as well.

We living in world obsessed with looks.

We spend more cosmetics any nation in world.

I no talk women only, men as well.

Madison ave. decreed past few yrs men have changing
fashions.

Each yr we tempted wear new cuts suits ~~xxxx~~ shirts
etc, now even wierd shoes.

What not being said, this done make money,
unfortunately, many fooled believing this cause
someone really cares how we men look.

Looks today very important

Men, women getting facelifts remove wrinkles,
cause wrinkles spell old age, & peop no want act

Minister tell of attending conference each yr Balti.
last yr attended & theme helping peop after surgery
Part of it was slides showing silicone injections
into womens breasts to make more shapely.

What this has do help minister perform his ministry
better I no know.

But every where we turn, we confronted with urge
look better, dress better, & bettering of lives
never mentioned.

Azazed how many peop talk to tell me, "I would go
t. church if only had proper clothes."
I would like someone tell me where in Bible it says
we need to dress or look a certain way come Gods
house.

2/

"Mothers And Others!"

Tex.: I Peter 3:3-4,

"Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding
of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of robes,
but let bit be the hidden person of the heart with
the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit
which in God's sight is very precious."

Today Mother's Day

Good old Mom will be wined & dined as magnificently
as average son or datters wallet can stand strain

~~not good old Mom, but good old Mom, who is the~~
~~best Mom~~

~~the best Mom, who is the best Mom, who is the best Mom~~

~~Today~~ climax Xpian fam wk

Past few yrs devoting sermon Mom, frowned on

So day been expanded Family life Sun.,

or, Home interpersonal relationships day,

or, a period for the re-evaluation between parents

& children,

or, Father, Mother, Children & their relationship to

the church,

or whatever, ELSE ANYONE COULD THINK TO CALL IT.

We could go on, but 1 individ summed beautifully

in poem, "All the women of the world belong to one

or the other of two classifications,"

poem is short & sweet,

"There are mothers,

Then there are others!"

Let me read letter sent to minister in Midwest,

(Letter from teen pregnant girl)

~~Not a nice letter~~ HERE is opportunity look 3 gener-

ations of mothers.

How do you like them?

Aren't they wonderful peop to be entrusted raise

This why I deplore this hypocritical day

Anyone truly loves, obeys parents doesn't need

special day for it.

Perhaps this why we come point can look at national

stitution of motherhood & coin some humorous phras

(Illustration Mother is etc.)

Perhaps we church peop need ponder image we
create as to dress
Js say, "Take no thot what U should wear, eat
Wf : more import, is heart.
(illustration little Martha, bless your heart)
3/ Perhaps confused, but where our heart?
Is it involved showing our Christianity?
Or is it in how we look, or what is latest fashion
we can buy?
Love really happens to be the most import ingredient
in family as well as world
In Hsburg paper cartoon "love is" some others
(Here are Few) peop have written are;
Lovely aren't they?
But mostly have ring of truth about them.
We want show love & only way can do is special day
Life come ultimate tragedy when we reduced this
perversion.
Do you love your mother cause today May 12?
Will U love your father June 16 cause Fathers Day?
Do u love family cause today Festival Xpian home?
It's absurd isn't It?
Solomon tells us the qualities of a good wife &
mother.
And thru it all is woven the strand of her love
for her husband, children & home.
She loves because she is first loved.
We all love because we have been loved.
God loves us, & why?
Because it is Easter or Christmas, or Thanksgiving
c New Year's?
Of course not.
He loves because He loves us, period.
& Just as God loves us, we should love 1 another.
We should love wives, husbands, children, families
not because we told to, not cause special day,
but cause we want to love.
XX
XX
The love of mothers strongest love in world.
Old saying, "behind every good man, good woman,"
true.
True cause good man, only good, usually cause of
mother sometimes wife.

4/
I fortunate have both,
Saw mother many times make sacrifices me, family.
Same with wife,
Seen her sacrifice on self for kids, me.
I don't know about you, for me, I no need special
day pay respects mother.
Thank God often for mother.
Remember her cause love her, & not cause May
12th
(Illustration Two Temples)
Those children who really love mother, will do
do more than once yr and may many, many families
XX
XX
XX
spend the day together, learning to share and love
each other, instead of trying to outdo each other
in trying to feed and honor mother.
In this way we can become complete families instead
of being separated as mother, father and children.
Instead, let us be Christian families, knit to-
gether in the common bond of love for each other,
and ~~God~~ IN LOVE TOWARD GOD, & IN THE LOVE THAT
GOD GIVES TO US.

"Hearts, Flowers and Humbug!"

Text: I Peter 3:10-12, "Anyone who wants to have a happy life and to enjoy prosperity must banish malice from his tongue, deceitful conversation from his lips; he must ~~yield~~ never yield to evil but must practice good; he must seek peace and pursue it. Because the face of the Lord frowns on all men, but the eyes of the Lord are turned towards the virtuous."

Today is Mother's Day. Good old Mom will be wine and dined as magnificently as the average Son or Daughters wallet can stand the ~~burden~~ ^{STRAIN}. All week long I have been hearing an ad by Bell Telephone to place your calls early to mother so you can get through. I even considered calling her at about 4:00 A.M., but I don't think she would have appreciated that.

But this morning is also the climax of Christian Family Week and today is known as the Festival of the Christian home. For the past few years the practice of devoting a sermon to just Mother's has been frowned upon. So instead the day has been expanded to Family Life Sunday, or Home Interpersonal Relationships Day, or A Period For The RE-evaluation of Domestic Communication Between Parents and Children, or Father, Mother, Children and Their Relationship To The Church, or ^{WHICH IS JUST AS WELL,} whatever. We could go on, but I think one individual has summed it up beautifully when he wrote the poem entitled, "All of the Women of the World Belong to One or the Other of Two Classifications." The poem is very short and it reads:

"There are mothers

Then there are others."

Let me read you a letter that was sent to a minister of a large church in the Midwest.
(Letter from A Teen aged pregnant girl.)

The minister added that the letter came from the very town in which he lived and in which his church was located. He said that in the letter there is the opportunity to look at three generations of mothers. How do you like them? Aren't they wonderful people to be

entrusted with raising children? This is one reason why I deplore this hypocritical ~~ix~~ day. Anyone who truly loves and obeys his or her parents doesn't need a special day for it. Perhaps this is why we have in our present age come to the point where we can coin some humorous phrases about that national institution known as motherhood. Here are just a few: Mother's Day is the day when we remember to tell our spouse to remember to remind us to remember to remind Mother that she is remembered on Mother's Day.

or "A mother is a female who forgets to take her pill."

or "A mother who has trained her son well is one who when she asks for a screw driver, he brings her the orange juice and gin."

or "A mother is a boy's best friend, if he gets home late enough to find her there."

or "A mother is one who has learned to hold both a cigarette and a safety pin in her mouth at the same time."

THESE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES.

But you see the home is the most important institution in our world today. It isn't just the ability to have children, because even a woman confined to a mental institution who is completely healthy otherwise, can have a baby. Thus it is not so important that a woman can have children, but what kind of a parent will she be?

Peter was admonishing the women of his day in this respect. He was telling them ~~knowing~~ not only to be obedient wives, but to be an example for their husbands. He was saying to them something like: "Look, perhaps you're married to a fellow who is not a Christian, may be he doesn't believe in Christ. If this is the case, the way to win him over is to live as a Christian." He was saying that they should not be so concerned with how their hair was fixed, or if they were dressed in the latest fashions. He said, "Do not dress up for show; doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart."

This is good advice for us today as well. We are living in a world that seems obsessed with looks. We spend more on cosmetics

and perfumes than any other nation in the world. I'm not just talking about women, but men as well. Madison Avenue has decreed in the past few years that men must have changing fashions just like the women. So now each year we are being tempted to wear new cuts of suits and shirts and now even ^{WIFE} shoes. What they are not saying is that this is being done so they can make more money. Unfortunately many people are fooled into thinking that this is because someone is really concerned how we men look.

Looks today are so important. ^{MEN &} Women are getting facelifts to ~~get the wrinkles~~ remove the wrinkles, because wrinkles spell age, and people don't want to act their age. A minister was telling me this past week he had attended a meeting in Baltimore that is held each year at this time, ~~and~~ ^{Each} ~~year~~ year it has a different theme. This years theme had to do with surgery and ~~helping~~ ^{& THROUGH IT} helping people in it. But one portion of it had to do with plastic surgery and slides ^{WERE SHOWN} and a lecture ^{WAS GIVEN} ~~ON~~ ^{ON} how plastic surgeons are implanting silicone into womens breasts in order to make them shaplier. Now what this has to do with helping a clergyman perform his ministry I can't say. But it seems to me that no matter where we turn we are confronted with the urge to look so much better, dress so much better, and the betterment of our lives is something that is not discussed.

It is amazing how many people I have talked to about coming to church and who have told me they would come to church, "if only they had the right clothes." I would like someone to show me where it states in the Bible that we must dress or look a certain way. ^{PERHAPS WE CHURCH PEOPLE NEED TO PONDER THE IMAGE} Jesus said, "Take no thought what you should wear or eat," etc."

What should be of more importance is the heart.

In school little Martha always placed her hand on top of her head when the class recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The teacher asked her why she did this and she replied, "Well, that's where my heart is. My mother always pats me on the head and says, "Bless your little heart.'"

WE
CREATE
AS TO
DRESS.

The little girl may be confused, but where is our heart? Is it involved in showing others our Christianity? Or is it in how we look, or what is the latest in clothing we can buy?

Last week we heard about love. Well, love is one of the most important ingredients in the family as well as in the world. In the newspaper each evening is a little cartoon that tells what love is. Here are a few examples of what people are saying that love is:

"Love is emotion sickness."

"Love is the lasting tender affection shared between two drunks."

"Love is like running down the street naked. You can be forgiven on the grounds of insanity."

"Love is what you try hardest to find before the bar closes."

"Love is what makes women shave their legs."

"Love is a vacation from reality."

"Love is what causes babies, and so does carelessness."

"Love is what makes all mothers seem like good cooks."

Loveley aren't they? But ~~they~~^{THEY} mostly have a ring of truth about them.

We want to show love, and the only way we can show it is to dedicate a certain day of the year to do this. I think life has come to the ultimate tragedy when we are reduced to this perversion. Do you love your mother because today is May 13th and mother's Day? Will you love your Father on June 17th because it is Father's Day? Will you love your family because today is also the Festival of the Christian Home? It's absurd isn't it?

13/17

Why does God love us? ~~Because~~^{13/17} it is Easter or Christmas or Thanksgiving, or New Year's? Of course not. He loves us because He loves us, period. No special observances or no special days can change that. And just as God loves us because He is really concerned about you and me, so should we love one another. So should we love our mother and our father and our families. Not because of a special day, but because we want to love. Hearts and flowers are nice sentiments

at anytime and not just on the 2nd Sunday of May. ~~So perhaps we need~~
~~to say that~~ I'll try to remember my mother because I love her, and not
because someone has been telling me all week to call her, or send her
flowers, or not to forget her, ~~but~~ ^{AND} I'll try to do it the rest of the
year as well. So I ^{MUST} add humbug, to the hearts and flowers ~~to~~ today.

Perhaps the best lessons for the home are taught not by
adults, but by children. ~~4~~

(Illustration of boy saying they do not say Grace, because they pay for
their feed.)

Contrast this with a little boy who desired to say Grace
at table. This is a true story.

(Illustration of boy and his atheistic dad.)

Perhaps we need more little children such as this in our
nation and in the world to show us what love really is. Perhaps you
and I need to gather in our homes today as a family, and not be con-
cerned that we take mother out to a restaurant, ^{OR BUY HER PRESENTS & FLOWERS} to show her our love.
And perhaps in the privacy of our homes we can gather together and tell
each other as a family that we love each other. Who knows, maybe we
will get to know one another better. But perhaps more importantly we
could share our love with God, for what He has done for us and given
us. It's ~~worth a try~~ worth a try isn't It?

"Do not dress up for show: doing up your hair, wearing gold bracelets
and fine clothes; all this should be inside, in a person's heart, imperish-
able: the ornament of a sweet and gentle disposition- this is what is
precious in the sight of God."

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:
sing forth the honor of His name:
make His praise glorious.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER MAY 19, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
GORDON KENNEDY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.
PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E FLAT" MOOREHEAD
"ANDANTE CON MOTO" JOHNSTON

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 39 "SAFELY THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK"

*ACRIFITION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE
DONE LITTLE TO FORWARD THY KINGDOM IN THIS WORLD, TO
ESTABLISH THE BROTHERHOOD OF MEN, AND LOVE AS THE LAW
OF LIFE. WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT WHATSOEVER IS DONE
TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THY BRETHREN IS DONE UNTO THEE.
PARDON OUR SHORTCOMINGS; FORGIVE OUR PAST NEGLECT.
GIVE US A SIMPLE AND A SINGLE HEART INTENT ON PLEASING
THEE. HELP US IN ALL OUR SEEKING TO SEEK FIRST THY
KINGDOM AND THY RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAT WE MAY BE BLESSED WITH
THE FULL MEASURE OF THY BLESSING. AND MAKE US TO COME,
AS CAME THY SON JESUS CHRIST, NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO,
BUT TO MINISTER. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: IO LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: EPHESIANS 5: 15-33

HYMN No. 286 "WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PAVER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "IN A QUIET GARDEN" SERGISSON
ANTHEM: "BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR" ARR. BY CHRISTIANSEN
SERMON: "MAKING A KING!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 282 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRETTO MAESTOSO" WILSON

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
DONN E. MILLER IN MEMORY OF "MOTHER" DOROTHY KALB
MILLER.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY: *CHARLES FENAR, DARYL TAIT,
GARY FENAR, DON KINGSLEY.

DEACON AND MRS. HARRY FRY WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT
THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT
AND FAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MR. HERMAN LIPPOLD, MRS. MARY YOUNG,
AND REV. GRANVILLE COOPER.

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY - 233.

MR. WILLIAM DUTTER WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CONGREGATION
FOR ALL THE CARDS AND PRAYERS AS HE IS CONVALESCING.
OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE WIFE AND FRIENDS OF CARL
MILLER WHO PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY.

COMING SOON! - THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL SPONSOR
A GARAGE SALE AT THE REAR OF 303 WALKER AVE. ITEMS
ARE NEEDED FOR THE SALE. ANY LARGE ITEMS WILL BE
PICKED UP BY CALLING THE ROBERT KNAUER'S OR DON
KENNEDY'S. THE SALE WILL BE MAY 31 AND JUNE 1ST.
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR RESERVATION IN/ FOR THE CHURCH
SCHOOL WORKERS RECOGNITION DINNER ON MAY 29 - PLEASE
DO SO.

REMEMBER - BEAT RECYCLING CENTER, SATURDAY MAY 25TH,
NEGLEY AVE. FOR INFORMATION CONTACT LIZ ARMSTRONG
287-2486.

NEXT SUNDAY WE WILL PUBLISH NAMES OF THOSE GRADUATING
FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BUSINESS SCHOOL AND COLLEGE -
PLEASE - IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO - CONTACT BEA TAIT
IN THE OFFICE OR AT HOME.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CAMPING? HAVE YOU GOTTEN A REGISTR.
SCHEDULE FROM THE OFFICE. THE CHURCH WILL PAY REGISTR.

't this true? 2/
 cut finger, do we not bandage disinfect etc.
 If we tire self mental, physically, do we not rest
 thus take care body.
 (this show love for own flesh etc?
 If apply this to wife relationship, we to love them
 as we self.
 P also bring in creation story, man leave father,
 mother joined to wife & two become one.
 P liken this to Xp & church, which perfect union.
 there no perfect union in humanity,
 only Xp & church perfect union,
 But this standard toward which we strive
 De 7E PEOPLE EVER AS F IN MEAN IS PEOPLE.
 Almost all heard, "A man's home is his castle"
 To which we ask "Who live in castle?"
 Royalty & royal families, right?
 How many ladies felt or feel husband king?
 Perhaps ask, "How many crowned husband, but better
 not ask, may cause embarrassment?"
 If accept above statement, then we talk Making A King
 Each man in own right ruler little domain
 But does actually work that way?
 I do not believe too much anymore
 At one time almost all fathers/husbands rulers own
 household.
 What Dad said, went.
 Today just reverse true,
 too often what Mom says, goes.
 Many men relinquished rt to use their rightsul auth.
 Caused by wanting no part raise family, let Mom do it
 This against all normal, natural in husband/wife
 relationship.
 Doesn't mean hus, must dominate home, make everyone
 slave
 Does mean man should be just that, A MAN
 I maybe old fashioned, but still believe man has
 certain role, woman has certain role.
 When women start act man, man start acting woman,
 all out of kilter & we reap harvest according.
 (male telephone operators good example)
 Look stats divorce, separation,
 " " frustrated men, women, children
 " " mixed up broken homes,
 Almost all can be traced breakdown Am. home
 Fathers, husbands, men in gen should be stabilizing
 fluence upon which society functions
 But alas, too often male populace too busy pur-
 sue business, profession, or pleasure.

"Making A King!"

Text: Ephesians 5:28-33

"Even so husbands should love their wives as their
 own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
 For no man ever hate his own flesh, but nourishes and
 cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we
 are members of His body. For this reason a man shall
 leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife
 and the two shall become one." This is a great my-
 story, and I take it to mean ~~XXXXXX~~ Christ and
 the church; however, let each one of you love his
 wife as himself, and let the wife see that she re-
 spects her husband."

Last wk those here, recal talked wives, mothers,
 said this wk deal fathers, husbands.
 looked critically Am. inst. motherhood,
 this morn look equal critically male counterpart
 inst. known fatherhood.

Altho image male as Father & parent not blown out
 proportion as female, mother,
 still disturb any male, father when contemplate image

Paul had some distinct things say men of Ephesus
 this scrip for morn

Prob 1st things ladies heard P advocate obed to hus
 May rankle some you, perhaps cause felt put down.
 But must understand time written.

Women in day of P of little value
 of v fit work, bear children
 Otherwise, no station in life.

But P address women were Xpian.

Js placed new standard role women in society
 " taught against divorce woman no longer please man
 " " enslaving anyone, thus advanced women's
 lib.

P tell women be careful in conduct, because women
 being of value & worth needed nurturing & working
 He perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, at
 until you in better position to assert self." at
 But what P really point out, men begin love wife as
 he love own body.

(w this put diff lite on subject.

He also point out, "No one hates his own flesh,
 but nourishes it and cherishes it."

homefires kept burning, glowing by little woman, 3/
if indeed she is there & not out working.

Little by little husband/father relinquish all control until perhaps kids ask, "Who that strange man?"
May be far fetched but some homes like this almost

(Illustration Joe Goebbels)

Not only in home need good Xpian fathers, but in Church, workaday world, & wherever influence of good men should be felt.

Not always what say, but what we do & live speaks
(Illustration Robert McCheyne) others.

Wouldn't be wonderful lead someone to Lord this

We each have opportunities, & time we changed way?
& became examps to others

Especially to our child. gran=childs, neighbor kids

(Illustration Mrs. Richards "Hand You Hold")

Did U ever stop/think how U may be molding, influencing some young person in way act, things do & not do,

by habits, by things say & kind of language?

Yes, those little eyes upon us, little ears listen
& we should & must be providing proper guidance

(Illustration little boy & too dark out)

It indeed too dark to send any son/dotter into world without Father.

This P point out, he tell all peop need F., God
This F. best shown Js Xp who is God in flesh,
& Js Xp King of King, beckon all men emulate Him
in living of life.

We men too often all wrapped up work, provide for family.
are

We forget our homes our castles

& in those castles should reside men/kings, women/queens, children/princes, princesses.

Peop who all are royal children of God.

But what really make King?

(Illustration "Door Man's Castles")

Men, fathers, husbands, grandfathers, uncles, nephews, or whatever be station in life,
now accepted time be about salvation souls, young & old,

& most of all salvation of selves so we be about, "making A King" in indiv. homes, & surround area

It too dark go out without Father, & especially without Father who king thru Js Xp. living in his life.

"Making A King!"

Text: Ephesians 5:28-33

Then so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church; however let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Last week, those of you who were here, will recall that we talked about wives and mothers, and we said ~~that~~ this week we would be dealing with husbands and fathers. I took a rather critical look at the great American institution known as motherhood, and this morning I would like ~~to take just a critical~~ ^{THE} to look just as critically at ^{the} Male counterpart of this institution known as Fatherhood. Although the image of the male as a father and parent has not become as blown out of proportion as that of the female as a mother, it is still rather disturbing to any male or any father when we contemplate the image created for us.

Paul had some very distinct things to say to the men of Ephesus, which we read as our scripture for this morning. Probably one of the first things you ladies heard in that scripture was that Paul ~~was~~ advocated the obedience of wives to their husbands. Although this may rankle some of you, and perhaps cause you to feel that you are being put down, you must understand the age and the time in which it was written. Women in the days of Paul were of little value. They were in most instances only fit to do the work that needed to be done, and to bear children. Other than that, they held no station in life.

But Paul was addressing himself to women who were Christians. Jesus placed a new standard on the role of women in society. He taught against a man divorcing his wife on the whim that she no longer pleased him. He spoke against anyone enslaving anyone else, and thus Jesus advanced the cause for women's liberation. So when Paul is telling the women to be obedient to their husbands he is merely telling them, that they must be careful as to their conduct, because the idea of a woman being of value and

worth, needed to be nurtured and worked at. So he was perhaps really saying, "Cool it ladies, until you are in a better position to assert yourselves."

But what Paul really points out is that men should begin to love their wives as they love their own bodies. Now this puts a different light on the subject, because as he also points out, "No one hates his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it." Isn't this true? If we cut our finger, do we not disinfect it and bandage it? If we tire ourselves out physically or mentally, we rest up so we may be able to perform our functions once again. Thus we can see that we take care of our bodies. By this we also show a love for our own flesh. So if we apply this to our relationship with our wives, we see then that we are to love them, as we love ourselves. But Paul also brings in a portion of the creation story, where we are told a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one. Paul likens this union to the union of Christ with his church. Which would be a perfect union, and we know that there are no perfect unions in humanity. Only Christ and the church are perfect unions, and really what Paul is setting before us is a standard toward which we are to strive.

I am sure that almost all of us have heard at one time or another the saying, "A man's home is his castle." To which we could ask, "Who lives in castles?" Royalty and royal families. right? How many of you ladies have ever felt that your husband was a king? Perhaps we should ask, "how many of you have crowned your husbands,?", but maybe we better not ask that to avoid embarrassment. But if we accept the statement that a man's home is his castle, then we are talking about the making of kings. Each man in his own right then is the ruler of his own little domain. But does it actually work that way? I do not believe that it does anymore. At one time almost all husbands and fathers were indeed the rulers of their households. What Father said, went. Oftentimes this authority was very much abused. But today just the reverse is true. Too often whatever Mom

says, goes. Many men have relinquished their right to use their rightful authority, just so they can sit in front of the TV undisturbed and let Mom do the chores, as well as the raising of the kids.

This is going against all that is normal and natural in the husband wife relationship. This does not mean that a man is to completely dominate the home and make everyone his slave, but it does mean that man should be just that, a man. I ~~may~~ be old fashioned, but I still believe that men have a certain role to play in life, and women have their role, and when women start acting and behaving as men, and men start acting and behaving as women, we have thrown everything out of kilter and we are going to reap the benefits in many ways. TELEPHONE ILLUS. (MALE OPERATOR)

Look at the statistics of divorce and separation, at the statistics of juvenile delinquency, at the statistics of frustrated men, women, and children, and the statistics of mixed up broken homes, and almost all of it can be traced to the breakdown of the American home.

Fathers, husbands, and men in general should be the stabilizing influence upon which our society functions. But alas, too often the male populace is so busy pursuing business or profession, the homefires must be kept burning, and glowing by the little woman, who waits patiently for the return of the breadwinner, and meantime is father, mother, nurse, housekeeper all rolled up into one. And gradually little by little the husband and father relinquishes all control in ~~the family~~ family matters until perhaps the kids ask, "Who is that strange man sitting in the living room Mommy?" Now this may be a little far fetched, but some homes are almost like this.

(Illustration of Joseph Goebbels being unloved in S.S.)

It is not only in the home that we need good Christian fathers and husbands, but in the Church, in the workaday world, and wherever the influence of good men should be felt. It is not always what we may say, but perhaps ~~THE~~ we live that speaks to others.

(Illustration of Robert McCheyne & his influence upon soemone)

Wouldn't it be wonderful to lead someone to the Lord in this manner? We have the opportunities each of us, and it is time we changed and became examples to others. And we must especially be examples to our children, grand-children, and yes, even the neighbor kids.

(Mrs. A. H. Richards wrote about this very thing, "The Hand You Hold")

Did you ever stop to think how you may be molding and influencing some young person by the way you act, by the things you do or do not do, by your habits, or by the things you say and the kind of language you use? This is very sobering when we contemplate this, is it not? Yes, those little eyes are upon us, and those little ears are listening, and we should and must be providing the proper guidance.

(Illustration of little boy & need of father, "Too Dark Out")

It is indeed too dark to send any son or daughter out into the world today without a father. This is what Paul is really pointing out. He is telling all of us that people have need of the Father which is God. That this Father can best be shown through Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, and Jesus Christ the King of Kings beckons all men to emulate Him in the living of life.

We men ~~who are fathers, husbands~~ are too often so wrapped up in the working and providing for our families, that we forget that our homes are indeed our castles. And in those castles should reside men who are kings, and women who are queens, and children who are princes, and princesses. People who are ^{all} ~~the~~ the royal children of God. But what really makes a king? (Illustration of a "Poor Man's Castles")

Men, fathers, husbands, grand-fathers, uncles, nephews, or whatever may be your station in life, now is the accepted time for us to be about the salvation of souls, young and old. And most of all the salvation of ourselves so we can be about "Making A King" in our individual homes, and in the surrounding areas. It is too dark to go out without a Father, and especially without a Father who is a king, through Jesus Christ living in his life.

The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity guarding the paths of justice.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

RECOGNITION OF SENIORS May 26, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
GORDON KENNEDY, MARY DELLEN - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "SABBATH REVERIE" MARTIN
"WHEN GOD LEADS" CLARKE

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 446 "NOW IN THE DAYS OF YOUTH"

*ACRISPION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL, WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASING TO THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND CLEAR MIND, WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: "O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 2: 12-26

HYMN No. 447 "Purer yet and purer"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "INTERMEZZO IN E"

PEERY

ANTHEM: "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

WARD

SERMON: "THE KEEFERS!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 448 "I WOULD BE TRUE"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO"

SERGISSON

--- *CONGREGATION STANDING ---

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY MR. & MRS. JAMES STEWART IN MEMORY OF MRS. ELLA STEWART.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *RAYMOND COVERT, ROBBIE VINROE, ROBERT DELLEN, BRIAN PFABE, STEVE SMITH. DEACON AND MRS. ROBERT KNAYER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL. NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY LINDA McMILLIN, JANE AND LIZ ARMSTRONG.

NO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING TONIGHT.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE. THOSE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL ARE: DERBY CAMPBELL, WENDY CUSTEAD, CINDY FERREE, JAMES HEATH, NANETTE MARDURGER, TERRY MOHR, SUSAN PALMER, BRENDA PAWK, TRINA RENSEL, SHERRY RENSEL, SHIRLEY RIEMER, GLENDA WEICHEY.

FROM BUTLER CO. COMMUNITY COLLEGE: CHUCK SMITH - SON OF MRS. GERALDINE MCCANDLESS, VALLE JEAN NICHOLAS, PAMELA TAIT, RALPH TAYLOR.

COLLEGE: EDWARD HARMON, MASTERS DEGREE, SECONDARY EDUCATION, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY. KENNETH W. ROBINSON, FROM CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, CALIFORNIA, PA.

FROM LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - REV. RALPH C. LINK.

THIS COMING FRIDAY 9-9 AND SAT. 9-5 - WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILL HOLD A GARAGE SALE AT THE REAR OF 303 WALKER AVE. ITEMS ARE NEEDED AND SO IS YOUR SUPPORT. ANY LARGE ITEMS WILL BE PICKED UP - CALL R. KNAYER'S OR DON KENNEDY'S.

THE APARTMENT AT 110 WALKER AVE. IS COMPLETED AND READY TO LEASE - IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED CALL ART SNYDER OR CONTACT THE OFFICE. BOB KNAYER WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY. MRS. MARY YOUNG IS NOW AT SUNNYVIEW HOME. RECOGNITION DINNER - WED. MAY 29TH AT 6:30 P.M.

SMALL
ALL
WORTH

If we apply within own fams, we know we bros, sis 2/ keepers
 While we concentrate thots on fams, come today look at 1 main reason for fams, ths children.
 ons, dotters.
 Have looked Mothers & Fathers, now time children (illustration mother & play pen)
 Reading recently coming back old ways raising kids
 Author article point out we tried gen, Dr. Spock & his theory of spare rod.
 Most will recall Spock wrote book, advocate no punishment or spank.
 Should talk child, never physical punishment.
 His theory caused some unhealthy situations in Nation
 Supposedly author say, he withdrawn theory
 Unfortunately, many peop not see his retraction
 Always bothers me, sensational news spread front page thruout nation.
 If wrong & need correction, retraction printed in want-ads or place where need magnify glass where seldom seen.
 Another eminent psychiatrist say, "Children need rules & discipline for emotion health, as much need bread & butter for physical health."
 Another say, "A child's character cannot be shaped by sudden accident."
 (Illustration dead bird in my hand)
 I thot of creation God, entrusted to a dumb creature thot of futility & frustration not to do more thot of many homes where children be raised
 How we as parents do not own children, merely loaned entrusted by God to raise productive peop, we "Keepers", to ed, feed, clothe, develop etc
 This grave respons, sometimes graveness only come after child. on scene
 Some cases this awareness only after almost grown
 Sadly, some child must raise selves,
 Needless say, this cause problems
 Many times in convers peop outside church, told when child reach certain age free choose ch. or rel.
 This bad situation say least
 (Illustration J. Edgar Hoover)
 We as parents cannot afford let child choose every If we fed this manner, all cake, ice cream
 be then, graveness situation lies.
 This not mean we be complete dictators, but do mean we to be shapers, molders that character God has entrusted to us.

"The Keepers!"

Text: I Sam. 2:12, & 26

"The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord.
 And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Text this morn taken 2nd chap. I Sam. 12 & 26 vs.
 The 2 vs tell 2 diff storys
 (Read Verses)

Hannah 1 of 2 wives Elkanah

Peninnah other wife able bear child, taunt Hannah for sterility.

On yrly trip Temp in Shiloh, Hannah pray in temp

Promise God if son, will dedicate to Lord.

God herd prayer, gave Sam.

Sam means, "Name of God," or, "His name is God."

Took boy temp Shiloh early age, he left with Eli

Eli good man, sons not.

Took best meat selves, if not given, took by force

Author tell young Sam, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child girded with a linen ephod."

Which says, he wear priestly garment, act in capacity assistant to priest Eli.

Sam mother must been good woman, loving.

We told made little coat each yr, took him when she & Dad at yrly sacrifice.

Script say, Eli bless Hannah, Elkanah because loan Sam to Lord. She had 3 more son, 2 dotter

We read, "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men"

In ancient Israel, word keeper several meaning

Most common, guard over cattlem, sheep.

Abel keeper of sheep, read 4th chap Gen/

Cain kill Abel in fit anger.

God ask cain whereabouts Abel, Cain answer,

"I know not: am I my brothers keeper?"

Thus he say, "Am I guard or shep over brother?"

Am I expected to look after him & care for him?"

When we ponder this we realize of course, this saying

ded down to us today.

Peop ask, when question relationship to other peop,

"Am I my bros keeper?"

The ideal child/yg person something all parents 4/
would like raise

This ideal called many things.

Yg peop who prob have secret yearn to be like

This ideal boy or girl.

They coined phrase "A Square."

(Illustration what is a square)

My prayer would be that all parents would be "The
Keepers" of squares,
& that all child & yg people become "The Keepers" of
a Square in their lives.

At beg our scrip we herd about sons Eli, at end herd
about boy name Samuel.

The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the
Lord.

Here the real secret of life.

To be worth something U must know the Lord.

"And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both
with the Lord and also with men."

Which will it be for U yg peop?

Which will it be for our children?

Do they know the Lord?

Do all of us know the Lord?

May all of our homes become the place where God is
present,

and where Js Xp is evident in our lives,
and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."

This supervision apply not only relig training, 3/
but secualr life as well.

We live more permissive society, than one which we
raised.

Our childfaced more obstacles, tempts than we had
This age more enlightened, more open.

Which more freedom make decisions, choices good/bad

So with all this permissive & openness, many parents
too busy own lives raise child, & trust raising to
society, schools, churches etc.

(Illustration disgruntled school teacher)

Talk with school teach, others school system, will
reiterate what this one say.

It sad, but true.

But all goes back to home & what child receive the

If instructed how act, how behave school, public,

for most part will not disappoint parents.

1 point need be made, this directed yg peop all

child particularly.

Perhaps some what I say, turn u off,

Perhaps much what I say u not agree,

but biggest hassle yg peop, child, parents have

today in area parental authority.

Many us raised home we expected do parents say, no

backtalk,

Many us who parents decided we give child say so

in matters discipline.

But unfortun 2 many yg peop taken this as license

do as please, disobey, & when this happens, Mom

Dad crack whip, yg peop rebel.

I believe all yg peop need learn respect wisdom of

parents, learn there definite reasons parental decis

1 order be trusted, must prove trustworthy.

If told be in 11, be in that time.

If told clean room, do chores, take care these

things without nagging from parents.

And if parents say something no want ~~do~~ u do, be man

lady enuf accept decis without cause W.W. III

All this bring us to point where we realize parents

are "KEepers".

Sometimes I sure they wonder Keepers of what?

Are they Apes? Or other animal? Or wonderful

gifts from God known as children?

But in all this lies hidden, child keepers too

Yg keepers life entrusted them, & to be keepers

of all the fam has given them in any way.

"The Keepers!"

Text: I Samuel 2:12, & 26,

"Now the sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord. And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Our text for this morning is taken from the reading of the 2nd chapter of I Samuel, the 12th verse and the 26th verse. These verses tell two entirely different stories. I prefer the King James Version for this particular reading.

(Read the verses)

~~Hannah, if you know the preceding story, was unable to have children~~
of
~~xxxxxxwent to the temple~~ Hannah was one of 2 wives ~~that~~ Elkanah. ~~And~~
Peninnah the other wife was able to bear children and she even taunted Hannah because of her sterility. So on the ~~xxxxxx~~ yearly occasion when they went to the Temple in Shiloh Hannah went into the Temple and prayed to God that she would be blessed and have children. She promised God that she would dedicate the Son she was praying for to the service of the Lord. God heard her prayer and granted her a son. She named this Son Samuel, which means, "Name Of God," or, "His Name Is God."

So she took the boy to the Temple in Shiloh at an early age and she left him there under the guidance and direction of the priest Eli. Eli was a good man, but alas his sons were not. They kept the best meat for themselves instead of only taking a portion of the meat and giving the largest part to the worshiper of that which was not burned during the sacrifice. If they did not receive the best part willingly from the worshiper, they took it by force as we read in the scripture. ~~xxxxxxthen told of their~~

But then the author tells us about young Samuel, "But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. Which is to say that he wore a priestly garment and acted in the capacity as an assistant to the priest Eli.

Samuel's mother Hannah must have been a very good and loving mother, for we are told that each year she made a little coat for him and ^{took} brought

the coat to her son ~~each year~~ when she and ~~her husband~~ ^{KENT} his Father came to the yearly sacrifice. ^{AT SHILOH.}

The scripture tells us that Eli the priest blessed Hannah and Elkanah and pronounced the blessing upon Hannah that she would have more children because of the loan of Samuel to the Lord. And she did indeed have three more sons and two daughters. But the latter part of the 21st verse is the most significant of the entire scripture, "And the child Samuel, grew before the Lord."

In ancient Israel the word "Keeper" had several meanings. But one of the more common meanings was that as a guard over cattle or sheep. Abel was a "Keeper" of sheep as we read in the 4th chapter of Genesis. And I'm sure we all know the story of how Cain killed Abel in a fit of anger. We then read of God coming to Cain and inquiring as to the whereabouts of Abel. ~~The~~ Cain said, "I know not: am I my brothers keeper?"

Thus he was saying, "Am I the guard or the shepherd over my brother? Am I to be expected to look after him and care for him?" When we ponder this we realize of course that this saying has been carried down to us until today it is asked very often by people who are questioning their rightful relationship to people who are strangers to them. So we ask, "Am I my brothers keeper?"

If we apply this within our own families we know that we are our brothers keeper and our sisters keeper as well. But while we are concentrating our thoughts upon families we come today to look at one of the main reasons for families and this is children. Sons and daughters. We have looked at Mothers and Fathers, and now it is time we looked at children as part of the family.

^{LIKE ABOUT PLAY WHEN}
I was reading recently that we are coming back to the old ways of thinking concerning the raising of children. The author of the article pointed out that we had tried a generation or so of Dr. Spock and his

theory of sparing the rod. Most of you will recall of course that Dr. Spock wrote a book putting forth his belief that spanking or punishing a child was all wrong. His theory was that a child should be spoken to and there should never be any physical punishment. Well, his theory has caused some very unhealthy situations in our nation, and from the article I read, he supposedly has withdrawn his theory in favor of certain punishments for children. Unfortunately many people have not seen his public retraction, myself included, if indeed he did make such a retraction. It always bothers me that much sensational distorted news is spread over the front page of many newspapers throughout the nation. But when a retraction is needed because some of this news is incorrect or false, you need a magnifying glass to pick it out of the want-ads, or some other place where it is seldom seen.

~~But~~ ^A another eminent psychiatrist has said, "Children need rules and discipline for emotional health as much as they need bread and butter for physical health." Another man has said, "A child's character cannot be shaped by sudden accident."

Now all of this is to say that we who are parents, bear a grave responsibility in the raising of children. To begin with we do not own our children. They are merely loaned to us by God to raise to be productive people. We never own them any more than we own anything in this life. This then means that we are merely "Keepers" of children. We are in charge of their feeding, clothing, education, development, and all of the other things necessary to raise them to adulthood. This is a grave responsibility and many times ~~xxxxxxx~~ the graveness of the responsibility only dawns upon many parents ~~only~~ after the children have arrived upon the scene, and in some cases the awareness ~~is~~ strikes home when the children are fairly well grown. Sadly too, the awareness of parental responsibility sometimes never manifests itself in the lives of some parents and children are left to almost raise themselves. Needless to say this causes them many problems. Many times in my conversations with people who are either

outside the church or who are occasional church attenders, I am told that when the children reach the age whereby they are able to make decisions, they are then free to choose their own religion and their own church. This is a bad situation to say the least.

(Illustration of poet Coleridge)

~~This is one very good way of solving the problem but~~ The late J. Edgar Hoover ~~also~~ had something to say about this problem.

(Illustration of J. Edgar Hoover)

We as parents cannot afford to let our children choose everything they want to do. If we fed them in this manner, their diet would consist of ice cream and cake. Here then is where ~~xxx~~ the graveness of the situation lies. It does not mean we are to be complete dictators, but it does mean that we are to be shapers and molders of that character ~~xxxx~~ which God has entrusted to our care.

This supervision applies not only in the religious training of children but in the secular aspects of life as well. We are living in a much more permissive society than the one in which many of us were raised. Our children today are faced with many more obstacles and temptations than many of ^{us} had to face. This is due to the fact that our age is much more enlightened, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and much more open. ~~Everything~~ ~~is much more open and~~ there is much more freedom to make decisions and choices that are both good and bad. So with all of this permissiveness and openness many parents are too busy with their own lives to raise their children properly and the raising of them then becomes the responsibility of society. And with this responsibility comes many problems as well.

(Illustration of disgruntled school teacher, #325 2400 illust.)

Talk with ~~many~~ school teachers, or anyone connecting with our schools and many of them will reiterate what this woman has said. Its sad, but it is true. So it all goes back to the home and what the children are receiving there. If they are instructed how to act and how to behave in

school and in public, then for the most part they will not disappoint their parents.

There are so many other areas of parental responsibility, we could not possibly hope to cover them in one sermon alone.

But ~~there is~~ one final point that needs to be made, and this is directed particularly to all children and young people individually. This does not mean that you parents are to not listen, but for the next few moments I would like to address the young people here this morning.

Perhaps some of what I have said has turned you off. Perhaps much of what I have said you do not particularly agree with. But the biggest hassle all children, young people and parents have today, is in the area of parental authority. Many of us were raised in a home where we were expected to do what our parents said, without any backtalk. But many of us who are parents have decided that we would like our children to have some say so in matters of discipline. But unfortunately, too many young people have taken this as a license to do as they please and to disobey, and when this happens, then Mom and Dad begin to crack the whip and the young people rebel. I believe that all young people should again learn to respect the wisdom of parents which comes with age, and to learn that there are definite reasons for parental decisions. In order to be trusted by parents, you, the young people must ~~xxxxxx~~ prove worthy of this trust. This means that if you are expected to be in by 11:00, that you are in by that time. If you are expected to keep your room tidy, or to look after a few chores around the house, that you take care of these things without parental nagging. And if your parents say that there is something they do not want you to do, then you should be man or lady enough to accept their decision without causing World War III.

Now all of this brings us to the point where we realize that parents are "Keepers", and sometimes I am sure they wonder just what they are "Keepers" of. Are they apes? Or are they those wonderful gifts from God

known as children?

But also in all of this ~~ixxxx~~ lies hidden the fact that children are "Keepers" as well. They are the "Keepers" of living the life that has been entrusted to them, and to ~~live~~ be "Keepers" of all that the family has given them in any way.

The ideal child or young person is something all parents would like to raise. This ~~ixxxx~~ ideal has been called many things. By the young people who probably have a secret yearning inside of them to be like this ideal boy or girl, they have coined the ~~we~~ phrase "A Square." What is a ~~Sxxx~~ Square?

(Illustration of A Square)

My prayer would be that all parents would be ~~xxxxxxx~~ "The Keepers" of Squares, and that all children and young people would become "The Keepers" of a Square in their lives. ~~But all of this is only possible through living each day in the strength that comes from God, through Jesus Christ in our lives. May all of our homes become the place where God is present, and Jesus Christ is evident in our lives, and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."~~

At the very beginning of our Scripture we heard about the sons of the priest Eli, and at the very end of that Scripture, we heard about a boy named Samuel. "The sons of Eli were worthless men; they knew not the Lord." Here is the real secret of life. To be worth something we must "know the Lord." "And the child Samuel, grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord and also with men."

Which will it be for you young people? Which will it be for our children? Do they know the Lord? Do all of us know the Lord? Mayball of our homes become the place where God is present, and where Jesus Christ is evident in our lives, and where we each one become and are, "The Keepers."

The hour is coming and now is, when the true wor-
shippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for such the Father seeks to worship Him.
Go is spirit, and those who worship Him, must wor-
ship in ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST spirit & truth
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PENTECOST JUNE 2, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
JODI MARTE, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" READ
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNN

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 322 "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL,
WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE
FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO
ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO
THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US
FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASEING TO
THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS
AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND,
WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY
AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 2: 1-21

HYMN No. 188 "HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

*FERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO"

KUHLAN

ANTHEM: "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT" - WOMENS CHORUS - DYKES
SERMON: "FILLED UP!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 193 "SPIRIT OF GOD"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" DUNN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MRS. ANN WILLIAMS IN MEMORY OF "HUSBAND" - WOODY.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN

REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT

THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER,

LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD 525, MRS. HOMER
BEATTY 624. PVT. KEITH TAIT, TRIPLER ARMY HOSPITAL,
AFO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96438.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ALTEMUS - FORMER
CHERYL (GILLILAND) ON A NEW BABY GIRL - NOW LIVING IN
EVANS CITY.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS.
W. A. (GLADYS) WINTERS WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK. *ALL*
MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING. *MR.*

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE *McClintock's*

ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC PICNIC * MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - 6:00 -

ON JUNE 14 - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED.

MONDAY - JUNE 10 - 7:30 P.M. - MRS. ARTHUR HAUSER WILL
BE HERE FOR A TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE. ALL OFFICERS,
TEACHERS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO BE
HERE.

TODAY IS PENTECOST - A TIME TO REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO INSPIRED THE FIRST APOSTLES
AND WHO EMPOWERS THE CHURCH TODAY TO CARRY ON CHRIST'S
WORK. A PAMPHLET "TIME TO REJOICE!" WILL BE DISTRIB-
UTED TODAY ALONG WITH THE BULLETIN FROM THE STEWARDSHIP
COUNCIL. IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THE GENERAL
SYNOD HAS ASKED CONGREGATIONS TO OBSERVE PENTECOST
AS A TIME OF SPECIAL FOCUS ON OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD
MISSION.

Attendance - 243

But I firmly believe we need accept that which cannot completely understand as sovereignty & majesty of God. J said, "With God all things possible," this we need accept & believe.

We need understand speak in tongues what really mean if he misused & questioned seriously today. When disc given gift on Pent was so could speak others own language they understood. Speak tongues move still prevalent today. This in church we call Pentecostal. Much this not legitimate, many peop supposedly speak tongue, speak gibberish, & many peop interp really do not.

Most peop question validity with good reason. If we ask quest why we no have speak tongue today, also need ask, "Why we need it?"

Would prove anything if I spoke German, Greek etc this morning?

Course not, & this answer.

God want me speak Eng. cause that we speak. There cases on record recent group worshipers, one speak foreign tongue.

When checked person no took language school, & further check show person there speak that language. Thus the foreign tongue so they understand.

(illustration Florida, Italian, Spanish, German)

Real purpose speak tongue, to spread Gospel Js Xp. & not show off how wonderful they were.

What made all possible was indwell Holy Sp.

They peop literally filled Holy Sp.

Fact so filled, peop that drunk

To which Pete explained only 9:00 AM & impossible be drunk

He went on explain this manifestation of Sp, which Js predict.

E. Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Xmas festival of God with us; Pent is God in us."

To which add quest, "Is God more with us, than in us?"

Good quest. If God more in us, we literally filled Up.

Filled Up with Sp.

Must remember cannot fill selves,

This only done by God

We must put selves in the position to be filled. When talk be filled Sp, must realize no one set way happen everyone.

"Filled Up!"

Text: Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Today Pentecost,

This from Greek PENTECOSTOS, meaning 50th.

At Pentecost 50 days after Passover AD 30, it fell on ~~May~~ Sunday May 28th.

Tradition has it 1st Pentecost took place Upper Room

In 1st chap read they assembled there

2nd chap read, "They were all together."

& while they thus assembled, "There came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting."

Greek word wind is PNEUMA which mean air or breath.

Perhaps you caught English word taken from it,

Pneumatic which compressed air,

or Pneumonia which respiratory disease.

If use word in sense ~~xxxxxxx~~ rush of air as Breath, then we can see it Breath of God, that came into midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

What took place was phenomenon never fully explained

Barclay passes off as unintelligible gibberish.

Dave Alexander in Erdmans Handbook of Bible,

"Normally the Apostles difficult Galilean speech

would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone in this mixed audience heard

own language being spoken."

The Galilean dialect was uniquely identifiable

We read this in Luke account Peter denial Js

man accuse Peter being with Js stating,

"Certainly this man also was with him; for he is

a Galilean."

Peters speech gave him away.

But if really want know what took place, we must

read scripture reference for self

Scripture states very plainly all of these Jews who

had been living in all parts then known world, all

spoke different languages.

They were now being spoken to by these Galileans in

their own native tongue and not in Aramaic or Hebrew

Barclay & all other interpreters who want explain

away mighty power of God, may do so.

Being filled Sp manifests self diff ways, diff peop/
Look at Apostles, see in them vast diff exist in
ministry & lives

Pete altogether diff person than Paul
But Pete just as effective in own way as Paul
Stephen diff Timothy Barnabas.

Look diff Matthew, John

Each lived, worked Js, yet Gospels tell diff story
diff things want impart about Him.

This good examp H. Sp working each person unique
diff way.

So when speak H. Sp, many good Xpians not completely
aware what being said.

Because too long they thot of H Sp something myster
ious and elusive,

& this only evident minister, missionary lives
But what not really understood believers, is that
when become followers Js Xp, He become part of lives
& then H Sp which really another manifestation of
God, begin work live our hearts.

This motivate us, move us do things right, proper
& good.

Small inner voice tells help others, resist evil,
live better way, that H sp God in U

We each here have H Sp working, living us,
& all we needdo make more real, more evident, is
recognize He there.

Then must seek follow more what tells do.

Other words, H. Sp. not something cannot compre

But it God within, seeking motivate do right

' be more instrument for Him

H Sp came many ways, many peop diff ways

Could name many this AM

But would like tēal one man much used of God &
how H Sp came to work in his life.

(Illustration William Booth)

Today may be just nother day many peop in many
diff churches.

Sadly enuf it day often overlook in haste observe
all secular days crept into church calendar.

This day soon over as each day draws close, But
perhaps need bow before God this AM & pray as man
prayed,

"O God, do it again. Do it again. Fill even me
with your Holy Spirit & let me be completely Filled
Up, even as those men of old. O God, do it again!"

Text: Acts 2:4a, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

The opening events must have taken place there, and the remainder of the events must have been out of doors. In the 1st chapter they are assembled in the upper room. We read in the 2nd chapter "they ~~xxx~~ were all together." And while they are thus assembled "there came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting." The word for this wind is Pneuma which means either air or breath. You may recognize it as being a part of the English word which has to do with compressed air pneumatic, or pneumonia, which has to do with ~~compressed air~~ a disease of the respiratory organs. If we use the word in the sense that it is Breath, then we can see that this rush of a mighty wind was the very "Breath of God" that came upon them and into their midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. What took place was a phenomenon that has never been fully explained. Barclay passes it off as being some sort of unintelligible gibberish. David Alexander in Eerdmans Handbook of the Bible states, "Normally the Apostles' difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone ~~in~~ in this mixed ~~group~~ audience heard his own language being spoken." The Galilean ~~speech~~ dialect was uniquely identifiable. We can read of this in Luke's account of Peter's denial of Jesus, when a man accused Peter of

being with Jesus by stating, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." Peter's speech had given him away. ~~Thus it is not possible that this group of Galileans were~~ But if we really want to know what took place, we need to take the Scripture reference and read it for ourselves. The Scripture states very plainly that all of these ~~people~~ Jews who had been living in different parts of the then known world, and who all spoke different languages, were being spoken to by these Galileans in their own native tongue and not in Aramaic.

Barclay and all of the other interpreters who want to explain away the mighty power of God may do so. But I firmly believe that we need to accept that which we cannot completely understand as the sovereignty and majesty of Almighty God. Jesus said, "With God all things are possible," and this we need to believe and accept.

We need to understand what speaking in tongues really means because it has been misused and is questioned very seriously today. When the Disciples were given this gift on Pentecost it was so that they could speak to others in the language that they understood. The speaking in tongues movement is still prevalent today in what we know as the Pentecostal churches. But much of this is not legitimate, because the people who supposedly are speaking in tongues are merely speaking a gibberish that someone supposedly interprets. Most people question the validity of this and with good reason. If we ask the question why we do not have speaking in tongues today, we need to also ask why we would need it? Would it prove anything this morning if I were to begin speaking to you in Latin or Greek? Of course not, and this is the answer. God does not want me to talk to you in anything except English, because this is what we speak and what we understand. There have been cases ^{ON RECORD RECENTLY} that ~~I have read about~~ where a person in a group of worshipers will suddenly ^{OR SOME OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGE} begin to speak in French or Latin, and when it was checked into the person who spoke ^{WORKING IN THEM} had never taken the language in school, and upon further checking it was learned that there were people ^{FOREIGN BORN LANGUAGE} there who could not speak English and thus the ~~French or Latin~~ was beneficial to them and they were able to hear

the Gospel in their native tongue.

The real purpose of this speaking in tongues was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not to show off how wonderful they were. What made it all possible was the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, and they were people who were literally filled with the Spirit. In fact they were so filled, they were accused of being drunk. To which Pater gave them the answer that it was only 9:00 AM and impossible for them to be drunk. He went on to explain that this was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus Christ.

E Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Christmas is the festival of God with us; Pentecost is God in us." To which he adds the question, "Is God more with us than in us?" Which is a very good question, for if God is more in us ~~than we are filled~~ then we can be literally filled up. Filled up with the Spirit. But we must remember that we cannot fill ourselves, this can only be done by God. So then we must put ourselves in the way of being filled.

But when we talk of being filled up with the Spirit, we must realize that this is not just one set thing that happens to everyone. Being filled up with the Spirit manifests itself in different ways in different people. Look at the Apostles and see in them the vast differences that existed in their ministries and lives. Peter was an altogether different person than Paul. But Peter was just as effective in his own way as Paul. Stephen was different from Timothy or Barnabas. Look at the vast difference between Matthew, ~~John Mark~~, and ~~the Apostle~~ John. Each of them lived and worked with Jesus and yet their Gospels tell an altogether different story of Jesus and the things they wanted to impart about Him. This is a good example of how the Holy Spirit works in each person in a unique and different way.

So when we speak of the Holy Spirit, many good Christians are not completely aware of what is being said, because for too long they have thought of the Holy Spirit as something mysterious and elusive that is only evident ~~in the lives of preachers~~

in the lives of preachers and missionaries. But ~~the secret of this~~ what is not really under-

stood by believers, is that when we become followers of Jesus Christ, He then becomes a part of our lives, and the Holy Spirit which is really ~~and~~ only another manifestation of God, ~~this~~ begins to live within our hearts and motivates us and moves us to do those things that are right and proper and good. That small inner voice that tells you to help others, to ~~be~~ resist evil, to live in a better way, that is the Holy Spirit of God in you. We each of us here this morning have the Holy Spirit working and living in us, and all we need to do to make Him more real and more evident in our lives is to recognize He is there, and seek to follow more of what He tells us to do. In other words the Holy Spirit is not something we cannot comprehend, but it is God within us seeking to motivate us to do right and to be more of an instrument for Him.

The Holy Spirit has come to many people in many different ways. We could name numerous people this morning, but I would merely like to tell you of a man who ^{was} much used of God, and how he came to have the Holy Spirit work in his life.

(Illustration of William Booth)

Today may be just another day to many people in many different churches. Sadly enough it is a day that we often overlook in our haste to observe all of the other secular days that have crept into our church calendars. Pentecost will soon be over just as ~~all~~ each day draws to a close. But perhaps we need to bow before God this morning and pray as that man prayed, "O God, do it again. Do it again. Fill even me with your Holy Spirit and let me be completely filled up even as those men of old. O God, do it again."

But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

TRINITY SUNDAY JUNE 9, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
JODIE MARTE, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E" SERGISSON
"THE HOUR OF WORSHIP" COFFMAN

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 185 "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"
*ASCRPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "GRACIOUS GOD, FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PROMISED TO RECEIVE US WHEN WE COME TO YOU. WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE DISOBEYED YOUR LAW. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU OR OUR NEIGHBORS AS WE SHOULD. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE AND SERVE YOU IN NEWNESS OF LIFE; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ESTHER 4

HYMN No. 191 "BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "OFFERTOIRE" WELLS

BAPTISM: ERIC CHRISTOPHER HOLLEFREUND - SON OF
MR. & MRS. THOMAS HOLLEFREUND

PIANO DUET: "SALUT D'AMOUR" ELGAR
KITTY FEDER AND MARILYN STEPHENSON

SERMON: "WHO KNOWS?"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 280 "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" BROADHEAD

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY CLARA AND FLORENCE SHAKELY IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES". SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, JOHN SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY AND STEVE VARGO.

ELDER ROBERT TAIT WILL BE AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY BARBARA VARGO AND KAREN KENNEDY.

IF YOU WISH TO HAVE CREDIT FOR CHURCH SCHOOL AND A PERFECT ATTENDANCE PIN - BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX UNDER CORRECT DATE.

➤ TODAY - WE NEED A COUPLE OF MEN TO HELP SET UP FOUR TABLES IN THE UNDERCROFT FOR THE TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE ON MONDAY NIGHT.

➤ MONDAY - 7:30 - GOSPEL OF LIGHT TEACHER'S COURSE - MRS. ARTHUR HOUSER WILL BE HERE FOR A TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE. ALL OFFICERS, TEACHERS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO BE HERE.

➤ FRIDAY - 6:00 - ARC PICNIC IN THE PARK - MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED - DAN BOSKO'S IN CHARGE. **ARTEC**

➤ HOSPITALIZED - MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD AND MRS. HOMER BEATTY.

➤ TODAY - WE HAVE NEW LIVING FERNS ON THE ALTAR - WHICH WERE PLACED BY DONN E. MILLER AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO HIS "MOTHER" MRS. DOROTHY KALO MILLER. DONN HAS DONE SO MUCH FOR OUR CHURCH, AND NOW HE NEEDS OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS, AND HOPE HE WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO WORK SOON FROM A SERIOUS BACK INJURY. HIS ADDRESS IS: 6282 BARRADOS AVE., CYPRESS, CALIF. 90630.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR FOR THE ARC CLASS ARE AVAILABLE. YOU MAY PICK THEM UP IN THE OFFICE OR FROM AN OFFICER OF THE CLASS. DON'T FORGET TO CALL THE BRUCE MCBRIDE'S 283-8980 NOW FOR RESERVATIONS - FAMILY CAMPING - AUG. 9, 10, 11 - OPEN TO CHURCH.

kings serves question Mord about this
 He merely answer he Jew
 These serves go Haman & tell, he become furious.
 B not content kill only Mord, he devise scheme
 whereby all Jews be killed
 He plot have all Jews in Persia killed.
 According popular conception of time, & this of
 Babylon origin, there cert time place do things.
 Book Ecclesiastes tells this well
 Haman casts lots to determine when this destruction
 of Jews take place
 Calendar that time ran spring til next spring.
 Reason, ritual Passover take precedence all else
 Yr begin mid March which called month of Nisan,
 So in month Nisan or mid March to Mid April in yr
 473 BC lots cast for destruction Jews
 Day for destruct fell 13th day 12th month which
 called Adar, & was from Mid Feb - mid March.
 Haman went king news certain race peop, he no name,
 had own laws, & no observe royal edicts.
 He promise pay 10 M talents silver to treasury if
 king give edict have peop killed. *18 M. 1000*
 king naturally no want enemies in kingdom agrees
 2 destruct, but tell Haman keep money as reward
 getting rid these peop.
 2 show good faith he give signet ring as pledge.
 Thus we come point where Scrip began this morn
 Mord sitting in gate, sackcloth ashes
 Es learns this sends serves with clothes, & inquire
 why he do this
 Mord tell serves tell Es what take place, & since
 she Q, tell king this grave injustice.
 Es sends serv back tell Mord even sh not permitted
 appear 4 king unless he send for her
 Mord tells them ans they 2 give Es,
 (quote Text here)
 & it from this reasoning of Mord that Es sees her
 tru role this instance, & she send word bak she go
 be4 king unbidden
 & she say, "If I perish, I perish."
 Peop have questioned whether this tru story.
 many quest ion whether it deal with anything worth
 This quest cause in 10 chaps, God no mention/while
 But if U read book with exaress purpose try see
 what message God inspired, then I believe U will
 see purpose of book

"Who Knows?"

Text: Esther 4:13,14, answer
 "When Mordecai told them to return to Esther. Think
 no that in the king's palace you will escape any
 more than all the other Jews. For if you keep
 silence at such a time as this, relief and deliver-
 ance will rise for the Jews from another quarter,
 but you and your father's house will perish. And
 who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom
 for such a time as this?"
 Today, next Sun serms will be from OT Esther
 U herd me urge you read Bibs from time to time.
 These serms result re-reading Esther 3rd
 1st 2 times I read, no ideas came to me.
 Last few weeks reading thru, 2 vivid things
 almost leap out at me from pages.
 This the valu reading Bibs
 U may read same passage over & over & never new
 thot concerning them,
 But may re-read & new & diff meaning come 2 U this
 This also H Sp within which we spoke last wk /way
 2 Understand what take place Scrip this morn
 We need go over sum background 1st 3 chaps
 Esther orphan, raised by cousin Mordecai
 Es & Mord were Jews
 King Persia Ahasuerus or Xerxes I (Greek name)
 had thrown sever banquets, & during one bang
 sent serves to have queen make appear be4 peop
 Queen Vashti beatiful woman, & king wanted her
 show off finery.
 But Q refuse come 4ward from quarters & king ang
 This point he call on advisors inquire what do
 They advised wite up decree stating Q. Vashti ban-
 ished from position & nother Q to be chosen
 So all beautiful ladies in kingdom brot to king
 from which he choose new Q
 Among them Es
 She find favor his sight, she selected be new Q
 King not ask nationality, & Mord tell not reveal
 In court of king 2 conspirators plotted slay king
 Mord at palace & sit in gate, tell Es, she tell
 king, thus Mord save kings life
 King Ahasuerus appoint man name Haman Prime Minister
 All princes, all serves of king commanded by K to bow
 All bow but Mord.

U here cause God wants U be here
Therefore we need determine what is God has in store
for us.
(The answer to question, "Who Knows?", is that God
knows.

So must ask, "For what purpose we here?"
(The answer of course is to look to God to determine
this.

We must come God prayer, meditation & let Him
speak to us individually as to why we here.

We not to be just attenders his church, but we to
be workers & builders His kingdom.

We can only determine this by seeking His answer
Js said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen
You."

By this we know we placed here this moment, this
time, this locale by will of Almighty God.

Who Knows? God knows.

& it only striving live this life thru Js Xp as
Lord & Saviour we have answers to Whos, & Whats
& Whys of life.

Let Him reign supreme in Your life, & then U
will know too.

Woven thruout book is knowledge that God having
hand in lives each character involved.

If U ask if I believe really happened, Yes I do
(Archaeological findings prove king Persia & other
things 2 show actual history)

In 1 commentary quest ask why Mord not bow down Haman
& it give no answer.

If we know Jewish history well enuf we know
real Jew no bow down anyone cept God.

This in obed to 1st 3 commands

If we look each part story we see working of God

1st Q put away 4 refusal ~~xxxxxxx~~ obey king

Then along come Es & what she? Of all things Jew

1 God's chosen peop

Them who save life king? Mord another Jew

Thus we see God working affairs of man, even
tho not always evident.

Recently we been hearing awful lot Satan & demons

This story good examp Satan work lives of peop

He worked way into hart Haman, & he determine
destroy God's peop.

Why Satan want do this?

For simple reason from Isr. to come Messiah,
the deliverer of God's peop

Thus if Satan could thwart this plan, he could nip
in bud plan of God, & God no voercome Him

But if we see God in control & He placed Es & Mord
at this point in time to be woman & man of hour

The quest Mord poses to Es should make all pnder
our relationship to God,

"And who knows whether u have not cometo the kingdom
for such a time as this?"

(Look at hist. of Isrlites down to present age,

Starting Noah ask 1st man of hr delivring peop

Then Abe, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon & on

Time/after/time/ peop inspired by Satan to destr
Gods peop, but time/after/time/ been thwarted.

Because God raised men women of hr

In own day been Hitler, Stalin, Kruschev.

At present Breshnev, Egypt, Arabs.

In each instance God raised men, women of hr.

" " could ask, "Who knows whether those
who have delivered peop, had not come to the king-
dom for such a time as this?"

(When put in this lite, we realize each have set time
& set purpose for being in existence.

U not an accident upon God's landscape.

"Who Knows?"

Text: "Then Mordecai told them to return answer to Esther, "Think not that in the king's palace you will escape anymore than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise from the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?""

Today and next Sunday our sermons will be taken from the Old Testament book of Esther. You have heard me urge you to read your Bibles from time ~~xxx~~ to time. These sermons are a result of re-reading the book of Esther for the third time. The first two times I read it, no ideas came to me. But just ~~this~~ in the last few weeks I was reading it through, and two very vivid things in this book seemed to leap out at me from its pages. This is the value of reading your Bibles. You may read the same passages over and over and never have a new thought concerning them, but you may re-read them again and have a new and different meaning come to you in this manner. This is also the work of the Holy Spirit within you which we spoke about last week.

To understand what is taking place in our Scripture for this morning, we need to go over some of the background of the first 3 chapters. ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Esther was an orphan who ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ had been raised by a Cousin named Mordecai. Esther and Mordecai were Jews. The king of Persia King Ahasuerus or King Xerxes I which was his Greek name, had thrown several banquets and during one of the banquets he had sent his servants to have the queen make a public appearance before the people. Queen Vashti was a very beautiful woman and the king wanted to show her off in all her finery. But the queen refused to come forward from her quarters and the king was very angry.

At this point he called upon his advisers to inquire as to what he should do. They advised him to write up a decree stating that Queen Vashti was banished from her position and that another queen would be chosen in her stead. So all of the beautiful young ladies in the kingdom were brought to the king ~~xx~~ from which he was to choose a new queen.

Among these young ladies was Esther. Esther found favor in the sight of the king and she was selected to be the new queen. The king did not ask her nationality and Mordecai had instructed her not to reveal it.

In the court of the king there ~~xxx~~ were two conspirators who plotted to slay the king. Mordecai who was at the palace and sat at the king's gate, gave Esther this message which she relayed to the king and the king had them arrested. Thus Mordecai had saved the life of the king.

King Ahasuerus appointed a man named Haman as his Prime Minister. Now Haman had the control over and above all of the princes of the court of the king. All of the princes and all of the servants of the king were commanded by the king to bow to Haman. But we read that Mordecai did not bow to Haman. The king's servants who were at the gate where Mordecai was, spoke to him about this and questioned why he did not bow to Haman. Mordecai merely answered that he was a Jew.

So these servants went to Haman and told him of this and Haman became furious. But Haman in his anger, was not content to merely have Mordecai slain, and thus he devised a scheme whereby all of the Jews would be killed. He plotted to have the ~~xxx~~ entire Jewish nation in Persia killed. Now according to a popular conception of that time, and this is of Babylonian origin, there was a certain time and place to do everything. The book of Ecclesiastes points this out very well. So Haman had lots cast to determine when this destruction of the Jews was to take place.

The calendar at that time ran from spring until the next spring. This was because the ritual of Passover took precedence over everything else. The year thus began in the middle of March which was called the month of Nisan. So in the month of Nisan or ~~March~~ the middle of March to the middle of April, lots were cast for the destruction of the Jews. The day for this destruction fell to the 13th day of the 12th month which was called Adar, and was from mid February to Mid March.

Then Haman went to the king with the news that a certain race of people

which he did not name, had its own laws and did not observe the royal edicts, and he promised the king he would pay 10,000 talents of silver or about 18 million dollars into the treasury if the king would give the edict to have these people killed. The king naturally not wanting to have enemies within his kingdom agrees to their destruction, but he tells Haman he can keep the money he would have donated to the treasury as a reward for getting rid of these people. To show his good faith he gives him his signet ring as a pledge of his faith in Haman.

Thus we arrive at the point where our scripture began this morning where Mordecai is sitting at the king's gate in sackcloth and ashes. Esther learns of this and sends a servant to Mordecai with clothing, and to inquire why he is doing this. Mordecai tells the servant to tell Esther the story, of what is to take place, and since she is the queen to tell the king of this grave injustice. Esther sends the servant back to Mordecai to tell him that even she is not permitted to appear before the king unless he sends for her.

Mordecai tells them the answer they are to give to Esther. He says, "Think not in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at ~~xxxxxxx~~ such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

And it is from this reasoning of Mordecai that Esther sees her true role in this instance and she sends word back to him that she will go before the king unbidden to come forward and she says, "If I perish, I perish."

People have questioned whether this is a true story, and whether it deals with anything worthwhile. Most of the questioning has been because throughout the 10 brief chapters of the book, not once is the name of God used. But if you read the book with the express purpose of trying to see that inspired message God is trying to impart, then I believe you will see the purpose of the book. Woven throughout all of this story is the knowledge that God was having a hand in the lives of each of the characters involved.

If you ask if I believe it really happened, the answer is yes I do.

Archaeological findings have confirmed not only the king of Persia mentioned in the story, but many other things that show it is actual history.

In one commentary I read the question ^{WAS ASKED} why Mordecai did not bow down to Haman, to which it did not give an answer. But if we know Jewish history well enough we know that a real Jew would not bow down to anyone except ^{first 3} God. This was in obedience to the ¹ commandments.

If we look at each part of this story we can see the working of God. First the queen was put away because of her refusal to obey the king. Then along comes Esther and what is she? Of all things she is a Jewess, one of God's chosen people. Then who is it who saves the life of the king? Mordecai another Jew. Thus we can see that God is working in the affairs of man even though ~~we cannot always see it.~~ ^{IT IS NOT ALWAYS EVIDENT.}

Recently we have been hearing an awful lot about Satan and demons. Well this story is a good example of the working of Satan in the lives of people. Satan had worked his way into the heart of Haman, and Haman was determined to destroy the people of Israel. Now why would Satan want to do this? Well, for the simple reason that from Israel was to come the Messiah, the deliverer of God's people. Thus if Satan could thwart this plan, if he could nip it in the bud, then God could not overcome Satan. But we see in each instance that God is in control and that He had placed Esther and Mordecai at this point in time to be His woman and man of the hour. The question that Mordecai poses to Esther is one that should make all of us ponder our relationship to God, when he asks, "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Look at the history of the Israelites right down to our present day. starting with Noah as the first one to be the man of the hour in delivering the people. Then Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon and on and on. Time after time, people have been inspired by Satan to destroy God's people, but time after time they have been thwarted. ^{BECAUSE GOD HAS RAISED UP MEN & WOMEN OF THE HOUR} In our own day it

has been Hitler, and Stalin, and Krushchev. Right now it is Breshnev, and ypt and the Arabs. But in each and every instance God has raised up men and women of the hour. In each instance we could well ask, "Who knows whether those who have delivered these people had not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

When we put it in this light, we realize that we each have a set time and a set purpose for being in existence. You are not an accident upon God's landscape. You are here because God wants you to be here. Therefore we need to determine just what it is that God has in store for us. The ~~question then changes from being "Who knows?", because the answer is that~~ ^{ANSWER} to the question "Who Knows?", is that God knows. So then we need to ask "For what purpose are we here?" The answer of course is for us to look to God in determining this. We must come to God in prayer and meditation, and let Him speak to us individually as to why we are here.

We are not to be just attenders of His church, but we are to be workers and builders of His kingdom, and ~~that~~ we can only determine where we fit in by seeking His answer. ~~km~~ Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." By this we know that we are placed at this moment, at this time, in this locale by the will of Almighty God. "Who Knows?" God knows, and it is only by striving to live this life through Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior that we can have the answers to the Who's, and Why's and What's of life. Let Him reign supreme in your life and then you too will know.

I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 16, 1974
FATHER'S DAY

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
FAM FRY, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "PRELUDE IN E" BACH
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNES

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 314 "HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"

*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN US THE POWER
TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL, HEAR US AS WE CONFESS OUR SINS.
WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE FAILED THEE AND OURSELVES. REGARDLESS
OF HOW GOOD WE HAVE BEEN, WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN
THE KIND OF PERSON THAT YOU WANT US TO BE. SOMETIMES OUR
BELIEF IN OUR OWN GOODNESS HAS PREVENTED US FROM SEEING
OUR SINFULNESS. WE HAVE FELT THAT ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAS
MADE US BETTER THAN OTHERS. OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD, TO
OUR HIDDEN SINS, AS WE MAKE A SINCERE AND HUMBLE CONFESSION
IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND FOSTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*FACTOR: 'O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ESTHER 6

HYMN No. 198 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*FACTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*FACTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO" SCOTT
SOLO: CYNTHIE SYBERT

SERMON: "GOD'S NO-DOZE!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 292 "ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" D'AUDEL

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY

MR. & MRS. DAVE CURTIS IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES"

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *DON KINGSLEY, DARYL

TAIT, JOHN DREHER, GARY FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. MIKE NAZARUK WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL

AT THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. MARGARET COVERT

AND FAULA STEPHENSON.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD, MRS. MARTHA

DEREWESKI, ROMH, MRS. JOAN VOGEL - PRES. HOSP. PITTS.

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY BE SURE AND SIGN

THE GUEST REGISTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY.

DON'T FORGET TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. & MRS. BRUCE

MCBRIDE 283-8980 FOR RESERVATIONS IF YOU PLAN TO

GO CAMPING AUG. 9, 10, 11 - THIS FAMILY CAMPING DATE

IS OPEN TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH.

ARC - PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE

PLEASE PICK YOUR COPY UP.

THE RESPONSE TO THE TAPES HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS - MANY

HAVE BEEN PLACED AS MEMORIALS, OTHERS BOUGHT TO BE

PLACED IN HOMES OF SHUT-INS. MEMORIALS WILL BE

PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR AUGUST.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS AND/OR

CONFIRMATION CAMP?

THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 185.

CONGRATULATIONS! TO TERRY MCGARRAH - HE IS NOW

OFFICIALLY SIGNED WITH THE PIRATES. - GOOD LUCK.

THEOS PROGRAM COMING TO BUTLER. THERE IS A DEFINITE

NEED FOR A SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

FOR THE WIDOWED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CHURCH.

LOOKING TOWARD THIS GOAL, AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL GROUP

CALLED THEOS IS BEING ORGANIZED IN BUTLER. IT WILL

BE SPONSORED BY ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH THE

CO-OPERATION OF MANY CHURCHES. FIRST MEETING JUNE 26,

AT 8:00 P.M. ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH BASEMENT.

FURTHER INFO FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Very peop he deliberate set destroy, very easily 2/
end up destroy him.

U may read remain portion book find out happen to
Haman.

Only 10 chaps & fascinating reading

Here we confront unique set events

When start out simple plan exterminate pest to 1
indiv & ward off others of group become loathsome,
now thickened into plot of mystery intrigue

When we analyse events this story we C plainly hand
of Al. God in backgr, using simple means accomplish
overthrow Satan & evil against His peop.

At beg. chap we C something spectacular we prone
overlook completely.

1st vs reads, "On that night the king could not sleep
King could not sleep.

How simple, yet how profound

Most instances, most peop's minds not say much
When look sleeplessness of king doesn't have much
effect on us.

Here an indiv wealth, power, position, prestige,
& he afflicted common malady effect many his peop.

We tempted say, "So what?"

Is it coincidence?

Is merely monarch with insomnia?

I think not. I see in this examp how God will step
into life of person & cause His plan be set in motion

I sure all seen commercial TV advertise pills when
drive no get sleepy, No-Doze.

Here an examp God's No-Doze.

It not pill or tablet,

It merely God step in & disturb person sleep

When we contemplate that God does not need always do
large things, spectacular things accomplish purpose,
we cannot help be overawed His power & majesty.

Dr. Murray write poem about this,

(Illustration power of God)

There may be emps & rulers, may always be kings

such as king in Persia time of Est.

But rulers & kings come & go, but always there

will be x God.

& God will always step in to work His purpose
out.

G has disturbed sleep of peop too numerous mention
in each instance there was set meaning, purpose that
was shown thru lives of peop involved.
(Illustration of woman letting go)

"God's No-Doze!"

Text: Esther 6:1,

"On that night the king could not sleep; and he gave
orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the
chronicles, and they were read before the king."

(Illustration of church members trying to reform man
This good examp Rob. Burns quote, "The best laid
plans of mice and men often go awry."

Scrip read morn, nother examp of this

Last Sun we look plot Haman destroy all Jews,
& today we look what transpire after Haman set plan
in motion

We read king unable sleep, decide read, make sleepy
book he chose read, book events happening kingdom,
like read reminisce scrapbook.

From book servant read incident slip king mind

This involve Mord. get info to king about plot

kill king, king kill 2 perpetrators

The king ask servants if Mord reward for this,

They tell no

Now Haman came court early that morn

King ask who there, told Haman

King call in Haman, Prime Minister to conference

Haman stand before king, king ask,

"What shall be done to the man whom the king de-
lights to honor?"

Haman impressed with self-importance, naturally im-
pressed with self, thinks king means him.

He say self, "Whom would the king delight to honor
more than me?"

So he give king instructions what he think should be
done, think all along honors belong to him.

Can U imagine shock Haman felt, & sense disappoint
when he discover man Mord?

Imagine that? Mord the Jew, only pers in king
court who no bow to him.

This ~~stuttering~~ nerve to ignore Prime Min. Haman

This lesson remind us story Js tell follow about

banquet & take low seat, perhaps be honored

This exact position Haman find self this time.

Poor Haman can only swallow pride see Mord honored

When read end chap Haman go home mourn fact he no

longer #1 man in kingdom, he not exclusive VIP

Wife & advisers instead sympathize, rub salt in
wounds, predict perhaps little world tumble around
ears.

Here common examp of this.

I say common because all it takes is that person
let God work his/her life

() mean try see just what God try say/do thru us.

(Illustration newsboy San Fran)

God too powerful 4 any 1 to beat or best

We need not only know His sovereignty/majesty/
supremacy over all, but need seek ~~His power~~ Him
in our lives.

We need let God give each us His No-Doze.

By this I mean we need make selves available Him
to make use of us,

whether middle night, or middle day.

If we should find selves some nite rub ~~our~~

elbows ancient king Persia, in that we cannot
sleep, perhaps God try tell us something or want
us do something.

We need attune lives to God & let Him show us in
whatever way He wishes what He wants us do.

Seek God all things, but to remain alert & awake,
take God's No-Doze.

"God's No-Doze!"

Text: Esther 6:1, "On that night the king could not sleep; and he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king."

(Illustration of John Smith & church members trying to scare him into reform)

Now this is a good example of what the poet Robert Burns once said when he penned the immortal words, "The best laid plan of mice and men often goes awry."

The scripture we read this morning ~~was~~ is another example of the same thing. Last Sunday we looked at the plot of Haman to destroy all of the Jews, and we are looking today at what transpired shortly after Haman had set his plan into motion.

We read where the king, unable to sleep, decided to do some reading to perhaps make himself sleepy. The book he chose to have read to him was the book of events of what had been happening in his kingdom. It was sort of like reading and reminiscing with an old scrapbook. From this book is read an incident that had slipped his mind. This involved Mordecai getting the information to him that there was a plot underfoot to kill him, and thus he was able to have the two perpetrators of that plot arrested and hung. The king in reminiscing over this inquires of his servants if Mordecai had been properly rewarded for this. The servants who were aware of all that went on in the palace inform the king that nothing had been done to reward Mordecai.

Now it so happened that Haman had come to ~~the~~ court early that morning, and the king inquired of his servants who was in the court so that he could check into this matter and properly reward Mordecai. The servants answer that it is the Prime Minister Haman, and the king ~~sends for him~~ summons him to a conference. Haman stands before the king and the king asks, "What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Haman who is already impressed with his self-importance, naturally thinks the king is referring to him. And he remarks to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" Thus he gives the king instructions as to what should be done, thinking all along that these honors are going to be heaped upon him.

But can you imagine the shock that Haman must have felt, and the sense of utter disappointment, when the king informs him that these honors are to be bestowed upon Mordecai? Imagine that? Mordecai the Jew, the only person in the king's court who does not and will not bow to him, Haman the Prime Minister of the kingdom?

This lesson would remind us of the time when Jesus was speaking to his followers and he told them that when they went to a banquet, they should not sit at the head of the table, but they should instead take a place of low rank. Then if they perchance are to be an honored guest, the host will send for them and have them seated in a place of prominence. This would save them embarrassment from sitting in a place of distinction and then perhaps being asked to move to a lower rank. And this is the exact position in which Haman found himself at this time.

So poor Haman could do nothing else but swallow his pride and make the necessary arrangements to have Mordecai honored in the very manner that he had prescribed to take place. We then read at the end of this chapter of Haman returning to his home, mourning the fact that he was no longer the number 1 man of the king, and that he was not the exclusive VIP in the sight of all the other king's servants. His wife and advisers instead of sympathizing with him and soothing his injured pride, rub salt into his wounds by predicting that this episode could very well be the beginning of the end for Haman. They advise him that perhaps ~~his~~ his little world was about to come crumbling down around his ears. That the very people he deliberately set out to destroy and wipe from the face of the earth, could very easily end up destroying him. You may read for yourselves the remaining portion of this story and see what does happen to Haman. This book is made up of 10 short chapters and it is rather fascinating reading.

But here we are confronted with a rather unique set of events. What started out to be a very simple plan to exterminate a pest to one individual and to ward off others from this group becoming as loathsome, has now thickened into a plot of mystery and intrigue. But when we analyse the events of

this story we can see very plainly the hand of Almighty God in the background, using very simple means to accomplish the overthrow of Satan and evil against His people.

At the very beginning of this chapter we see something so simple and unspectacular that we are prone to overlook it completely. The first verse reads, "On that night the king could not sleep." The king could not sleep. How simple and yet how profound. In most instances and in the minds of most people this does not say much. When we look at the sleeplessness of a king it doesn't have too much effect on us. Here is an individual with wealth and power, with position and with prestige, and he is afflicted with a common malady that probably effected many of his people. And with this we are tempted to say, "So what? Is it coincidence? Is it merely an example of a monarch with insomnia?"

I think not. I see in this an example of how God will step into the life of a person and cause his plan to be set in motion. I am sure we have all seen the commercial on television that advertises the pills that a person can take when driving to stay awake, called No-Doze. Well, here is an example of God's No-Doze. It isn't a pill or a tablet, it is merely God stepping in and disturbing a person's sleep. When we contemplate that God does not need to always do large and spectacular things to accomplish His purpose, we cannot help but be overawed at His power and majesty. A Dr. Murray wrote a poem about this and he writes,

(Illustration of The Power of God)

There may be emperors and rulers, there may always be kings such as the king of Persia in the time of Esther. But rulers and kings come and go, but there always will be God. And God will always step in to work His purpose out. God has disturbed the sleep of people too numerous to mention. In each instance there was a set meaning and a set purpose that was shown through the lives of the people involved.

(Illustration of woman letting go)

Here is a common example of this. I say common, because all that it takes is that a person let God work in his or her life. It means trying to see just what God is trying to say or do through us.

(Illustration of newsboy in San Francisco)

God is too powerful for any one to ever beat. We need not only acknowledge His sovereignty, His majesty, and His supremacy over all, but we need to seek Him in our lives. We need to let God give each of us His No-Doze. By this I mean we need to make ourselves available to Him to make use of us whether it be the middle of the day or the middle of the night. If we should find ourselves some night rubbing elbows with the ancient king of Persia, in that we cannot sleep, perhaps God may be trying to tell us something or want us to do something. We need to attune our lives to God and let Him show us in whatever way He wishes what He wants us to do.

Seek God in all things, but to remain alert and awake take God's No-Doze.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 30, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
PAM FRY, ELLEN MASTER - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 7:30 P.M.
PRELUDE: "PRELUDE IN A MAJOR" PERRY

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #43 "O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*INVOCATION

RESPONSIVE READING No. 72 PAGE 619

HYMN No. 439 "GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND"

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

OFFERING
OFFERTORY: "PASTORALE" BRUSCH

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: JOHN LAVERNE PENROD - SON OF
MR. & MRS. HARRY PENROD.

SOLO: "I'LL WALK WITH GOD" BY BRODSZKY - SANDY COTTAGE
PIANO ACCOMPANIST: DEB MELTON

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 20: 1-21

SERMON: "ONE NATION UNDER WHICH GOD?"

*GLORIA PATRI

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR OUR NATION AND OUR PEOPLE

*HYMN No. 63 "OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST"

*BENEDICTION

*THREEFOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE: "ALLEGRO" MALLARD

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MR. & MRS. CHARLES FENAR IN MEMORY OF FAM PFLUGH.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALVIN TAIT, JAMES
MCCLYMONDS, MIKE NAZARUK AND GEORGE PFLUGH.

DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES FENAR WILL BE OFFICIAL GREETERS
AT THE DOOR TODAY REPRESENTING COUNCIL.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY MRS. JOHN REDMAN
AND PAULA STEPHENSON.

> HOSPITALIZED: MRS. VIRGINIA BEATTY, MR. W. A. WINTERS,
MR. WILMER PFABE.

AUGUST 25 IS OPEN FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS AS WELL AS FOUR
SUNDAYS IN SEPT. - 1, 15, 22, 29 AND SOME OTHER DATES
THROUGH OUT THE PERIOD OF JULY THRU DEC. - IF YOU
WANT A SPECIAL SUNDAY - LET US KNOW NOW.

> DUE TO THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND THERE WILL BE NO COUNCIL
MEETING IN JULY - NOTICE WAS IN THE NEWSLETTER OF
JUNE - NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN AUGUST.

ACCORDING TO WORD RECEIVED - REV. AND MRS. LEE
NEUHAUS AND THEIR SONS KURT AND JON WILL BE VISITING
IN BUTLER LATE IN JULY AT OUR HOME. WE ARE PLANNING
AN OPEN HOUSE ON JULY 31 FROM 7-9 P.M. SO THAT ANY OF
YOU WHO WANT TO SAY "HELLO" CAN DO SO. LEE AND KATHY
ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CHANCE TO SEE MANY OF
THEIR FRIENDS HERE. --- GENE AND MARILYN STEPHENSON.

> NEXT SUNDAY - HOLY COMMUNION - NEW MEMBERS WILL BE
TAKEN INTO THE CHURCH AT THIS TIME.

REMEMBER - CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC - ALAMEDA PARK -
SHELTER CLOSEST SWIMMING POOL - WED. JULY 24 AT 6:00
P. M. - SPONSORED BY THE LAY LIFE AND WORK COMMITTEE.

BAPTISM THIS AFTERNOON - 2:00 P.M. - 8 YR. OLD SON -
OF MR. & MRS. JOHN STEVENSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER -
KELLY JO ANN STEVENSON, MICHELLE RENE WILLIAMS -
DAUGHTER OF MR. & MRS. JOHN WILLIAMS.

CONFIRMATION CLASS CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE IN TODAY
\$20.00 WILL BE PAID BY THE CHURCH AND \$15.00 IS TO
ACCOMPANY THE REGISTRATION FROM THE PARENTS. IF YOU
BY ANY CHANCE FORGOT TO BRING THIS WITH YOU TODAY -
PLEASE LEAVE US KNOW IN THE OFFICE.

WELCOMES ALL VISITORS

THANK LAYMEN FOR SERVICE LAST WEEK.

From all this can draw strange parallels USA 2/
Country founded men women driven here by harsh
cruel taskmasters, Holland, England, Germany
Teacher asked class, "Why pilgrims come America?"
W. L. answered, "To worship God in their own way,
and make other people do the same."

He partially right,
it was to worship God as they pleased, in freedom
thus country founded relig freedom
1 of main principles of founding

Look at hist. of nation see few Moses among us
Men like, Wash, Jeff, Franklin, Lincoln name few
Men like these led out of wilderness relig oppress
inh, minty man, inequality races so on
Men who looked God as author creator all mankind
Men who strove diligent incorporate into constit
safeguards all peop, to protect against others
making us slaves.

Have seen country rise world power less 200 yrs
Nation set standards unsurpassed in production
of everything from more corn per acre, to canopener
nation reached out all direct feats of daring
exploration
Nation gone moon back, nation blessed more wealth
than any other nation in history of world

But alas, like ancient Is, we made golden calves in
past few generations

have slowly, surely turned backs upon creator
we have said, "These are thy gods O America,
which brought thee up out of the land of the unknd
We have bowed to them and worshiped them

It look around can see them
has become such ingrained thing in nation, it has
reached grass roots level, ~~WE ALL INVOLVED~~
& no one of us can point finger & say, "Thou art
the man," as Nathan once pointed and said

We all have own little gods in our lives,
perhaps some more than others, but all have them

These gods wealth, power,
gods banks, building loans, houses buildings, apts
gods stocks, bonds, investments, land develop
gods iron, steel, concrete buying, selling

gods power equip, tractors, cars, motpr bikes, cycle
gods tents, campers, trailers, swimming pools ~~boats~~
gods, sex, liquor, tobacco, other husbands, wives

~~NOT BAD IN SELF, BUT WE GIVE EXTREMES.~~

"One Nation Under Which God?"

Te s: Exodus 32:4b,
"and they said, 'These are thy gods O Israel,
which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.'
Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before
me."

For Scrip read giving 10 C
few short chaps later read disobed of Isrites
chap 32 Ex, read ofvpeop impatience,
also of discontent
as they wait Moses return Mt. Sinai

God miraculously delivered from hands of Egyptians
by crossinf Red Sea.

Immediately in new land, only there 3 day,
have difficulty.
encountered bitter water, cried against Moses
bringing them there
Moses call on God, God shows tree,
he casts into water, water become sweet.
Thus should know God all sufficient for needs
They now encamped foot Mt. Sinai

Moses converse God, not only 10 C
but instructions bild ark covenant & ~~ALTA~~
In their impatience, turned completely against G
Had Aaron make golden calf from rings, etc

had no god could see & must see be assured he with
them

ter Aaron make idol they say, (TEXT)
y this declar give evidence forgot which God
brot up from E.

If read on this chap see God angry, would destroy,
But Moses intercede & name of God not tarnished
in Egypt elsewhere

Moses return, melt calf, put in water, make drink
Call, "Who on Lord's Side?"
these ordered slay unbeliever, this they did

Even after Moses again go up Mt plead with God,
God promise blot out names from His book those
sinned against Him.

Also promise visit them in wilderness wanderings
In 35th vs read, "And the Lord plagued the peop
because they made the calf which Aaron made."
We see from this, must be punishment for sin

We have time for everything but God.

We are so wrapped up in our little worlds, we give God 2nd place.

Our priorities are all twisted up. It is my need wants 1st, & if there is any time left then I may consider God.

Ha writing on wall my friends, we need either change course in nation or we doomed (Illustration of Toynbee)

Just read recently how 100M child, women, men died Africa, cause we no figure way send relief. This disgrace to supposedly Xpian nation.

Congress deliberates at snails pace, while country falls in ruin.

State Legislature cannot agree on anything for months & then passes 2 momentous decisions in 1 wk We now have stae insect, Fifefly, & it illegal to streak.

Tremendous work indeed.

we become indiff needs own peop as well as world, We like woman on TV commerc several yrs ago with headache, becomes upset mother, yells, "I can do it myself."

We have done this with God, "We can do it ourselves God, let us alone, we Do not need you."

We are to be pitied for we are indeed "One nation under God, but which one?"

Let us ~~begin~~ U & I, begin with this service to have a daily prayer vigil to ask God for His help in our nation.

Let us ask Him to intervene in the lives of our leaders & move them to do rite.

Let us pray for pres, whether dislike or not, " " " " ~~senators, govs, all leaders.~~ (Illustration of "Thou shalt have no other gods before me.") ~~Thou shalt have no other gods before me.~~

But the promise is also there as well, "IF MY PEOP WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND HEAL THEIR AND."

All these golden calves America bowing to, more & more each year.

Finally reached point where group peop in name of protecting us from other peop used all ~~means~~ crooked means to insure we protected.

Thus stinking mess we call WATERGATE

Others using this situation to smear and besmirch whatever vestige of respectability the Presidency has left.

Purpose seems to be to overlook or forget other administrations & shady dealings on the other side of the fence.

All of this proves that Mr. Nixon, Mr. Johnson or Mr Kennedy are no better nor no worse than any of us.

All of this has happened because we are too concerned with our own interests, our own greed and desire for all of the things that men & adminis can give us.

If we disbelieve this, only need ask,

"Why inflation?"

Because dealers, buyers, sellers all kinds want makemost possibly can.

Why high rents, mortgages, interest rates?

Because investors big & little want most returns on investments even at the expense of the poor, the aged, the widowed.

We can question all areas of society & answers all same, "THESE ARE THY GODS O AMERICA, WHICH BROUGHT THEE UP OUT OF THE LAND OF THE UNKNOWN."

And what does God say to all of this & thru all of this?

He still say today as then, "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME."

We once prided selves on being, "One Nation under God," & took so much pride in it we added it to pledge of allegiance.

But must ask because of conditions in nation, "One Nation Under God," BUT which God?

Is it God of hatred, power, anger, jealousy, wrath, wealth, greed, sex, overindulgence in food, drink & drugs, Is it god of senatore, legislators, govs, or presidents?

We have come to point we begrudge God the little time we give to God.

"One Nation Under Which God?"

Text: Exodus 32:4b, "and they said, These are thy gods O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."
Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

For our Scripture we read the story of the giving of the Ten Commandments, but a few short chapters later we learn of the disobedience of the Israelites. In the 32nd chapter of Exodus we read of the impatience ~~discontent~~ of the people, as well as their discontent. They were awaiting the return of Moses from Mt. Sinai.

God had miraculously delivered the people from the hands of their harsh taskmasters, the Egyptians, by the crossing of the Red Sea. After they had been brought into this new land they had immediately encountered difficulty in following God completely. ~~XX~~ They had been in the wilderness only 3 days and they encountered bitter water, and they cried against Moses for leading them there. So Moses called upon God and God showed him a tree which he cast into the waters and they became sweet. Thus they knew that God was sufficient for all their needs. But now they were encamped at the foot of Mt. Sinai and Moses was taking such a long time to come back.

Moses was in conversation with God getting not only the Ten Commandments, but instructions about the building of the Ark of the Covenant. But in their impatience they turned completely against God and had Aaron make them a golden ~~xxx~~ calf which they could worship. They had to have a god they could see and thus be assured the god did not leave them. After Aaron had made this idol they said, "These are thy gods O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." By this declaration they gave evidence of having completely forgotten which god it was who brought them up out ~~xxxxx~~ of the land of Egypt.

Then if we read on in this chapter we see that God becomes angry with His people and He would destroy them. But Moses interceded for them and only by his pleading that the death of all these people would cause God's name to be looked upon as being deceitful and dishonest, prevents

God from exacting a just death upon all of them. After Moses returned to the Israelites camp and melted down the golden calf, and spread it in their drinking water and made them drink it, he then called for those who in the camp who were on the Lord's side. These he ordered to slay the unbelievers among them, and this they did.

But even after this Moses went up again on the Mt, and pleaded with God to forgive their iniquity. God promised to blot out ~~the~~ from His book those who had sinned against Him. But He also promised to visit them in their wilderness wanderings. In the 35th verse of this chapter we read, "And the Lord plagued the people, because they ~~made the~~ made the calf which Aaron made." So from this we can say that when there is sin, there must be punishment.

Now from all of this we can draw some very strange parallels for these United States of America. This country was founded by men and women who were literally driven here by harsh and cruel taskmasters in England Holland and Germany.

A teacher asked his class why the pilgrims came to America, and one little boy answered, "To worship God in their own way, and make other people do the same."

Now he had it partially right, but it was to worship God as they pleased without anyone telling them how and when ~~to~~ to do it. Thus this country was founded upon religious freedom as one of the main ~~thing~~ principles for its founding.

When we look at the history of this nation we see that we had the equivalent of quite a few Moses among us. Men like Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, ~~Lincoln~~ and Lincoln to name a few. Men such as these who led us out of the wilderness of religious oppression, inhumanity to ~~men~~ men, inequality among races and so on. Men who looked to God the author and creator of all mankind. Men who strove diligently to incorporate into the very constitution, safeguards for all of the people, to protect them against others making us slaves. We have seen this country

risecto be a world power in less than 200 years. A nation that has set tandards and been unsurpassed in production from everything ~~xx~~ such as growing more corn per acre to canopeners. A nation that has reached out ~~in~~ all directions in daring feats of exploration. A nation that has been blessed by more wealth and prosperity than any other nation in the history of the world.

But alas, like that ancient nation of Israel we have made for ourselves golden calves which we have begun to worship in the past few generations and we have slowly but surely turned our backs upon our creator. We have said as they once did, "These are thy gods O America, which brought thee up out of the land of the unknown." And we have bowed down to them and worshiped them.

If we look about us we can see the gods we have made. It has become such an ingrained thing in our nation that it has reached the so called grass roots level, and no one of us can point the finger and say "thou art the man" as Nathan once pointed the finger and said to King David. We all have our own little gods in our lives, perhaps some of us have one a little more than some others, but we all have them. We have made gods of wealth, and power. Gods of building and loans and banks. Stocks and bonds, land investments, land development. We have gods of iron and steel, buildings for rent and sale. We have power equipment gods of tractors, and cars and motor bikes, and motor cycles. We have gods of tents and trailers and campers and swimming pools. We have gods of liquor and tobacco, and sex and other peoples husbands and wives. ~~xxx~~ All of these are the golden calves that America has been bowing down ~~xxx~~ to more and more each year.

We have finally reached the point where a group of people in the name of protecting us from another political party or person, have used all sorts of crroked means to insure that we are protected. Thus we have a stinking mess we call simply W_atergate. The party out of ~~power~~ power thus uses this as a wedge to smear whatever vestige of respectability

our present president has, hoping ~~that~~ they may cover their own tracks, and we will forget they had their Lyndon Johnson, and Kennedy ssandals. But all of this proves that Mr. Nixon, or Mr. Kennedy, or Mr. Johnson is no better, nor no worse than any of us. We have let all of this happen because we are all only interested in ourselves and our own greed for things.

If any of us disbelieve this we only need ask some questions. Why do we have inflation? Because the dealers and sellers want to make the most they can for their products. Why do we have such high rents and interest and mortgage rates? Because the investors big and little want the most return on their investments. Thus we can question all areas of our society and the answers are all the same, "These are Thy gods O America, ~~that~~ which brought thee up out of the land of the unknown."

But what does God say to all of this and all through this. He is still ~~saying~~ saying today as He did then, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." We once prided ourselves on being, "One nation under God." We took so much pride in this that we even added it to the pledge of allegiance. But we must ask today because of the conditions in our nation, "'One nation under which God?" Is it the God of hatred, or of power, or of wealth, or of greed, of sex, of overindulgence in food and drink and drugs? Is it the god of powerful senators, or presidents whose snap of the finger can have instant response?

We have come to such a point in our nation where we refuse to give God a few hours of our time each week. We have time for everythin but God. Let special services be called in our churches and people grumble and moan that the church is out to make money every time you turn around. But did you notice we did not ask for an offering tonight? We did not ask not because we were afriad to have one, but simply because the purpose of this service is not to take up a collection, but instead to collect ourselves together to pray to God for our nation and our people.

The handwriting is on the wall my friends. We need to either change our course in our nation in so many areas, or we are doomed.

God is not going to stand by and see us waste, and pollute, and run rampant over other people without punishing us for it. I just read last week that the United States permitted 100,000 men women and children to die slowly of starvation in Africa, simply because we did not act fast enough to relief their suffering. Our congress sits and deliberates at a snails pace on so many large issues and passes legislation of no consequence in a short time. In Pennsylvania we cannot get a budget through the legislature for months on end, but in a matter of several days they passed two bills. One to designate the firefly as the state bug, and the other to fine anyone caught streaking. A tremendous piece of work.

We have become indifferent to the needs of our own people as well as the people of the world. We are like that woman on the commercial of several years ago, suffering from a headache, who becomes upset with her mother and shouts, "I can do it myself, Mother." Well this is what we have done to God. "I can do it myself God, let me alone, I don't need you."

We are to be pitied indeed. We are indeed "One Nation Under God", but "Which God?" Let us, you and I let this service be a start in a continual prayer vigil in our lives, to ask God for His help in our nation, and in our world.









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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.